Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-089
Tuesday
11 May 1993

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FBIS-NES-93-089 11 May 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Peace Talks Continue; Palestinians Cut Team in Protest

'Crisis' Result of PLO Displeasure

JN1005183293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 93

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Text] Official Palestinian sources have told Radio Monte Carlo that the crisis in the Palestinian-Israeli track resulted from the PLO's deep resentment of the shallow results reached so far and at the failure of Israel, the United States, and some Arab parties to fulfill the promises they gave to the Palestinians before the resumption of negotiations.

Following the return to Washington of the majority of the Palestinian delegation, who visited the PLO headquarters in Tunisia, the American side was informed of the PLO leadership's resentment. The Palestinian delegation also asked the United States to quickly take the necessary steps to save the ninth round of talks and to achieve tangible and immediate progress in the Palestinian track before it is too late.

The Palestinian sources added that Faysal al-Husayni stayed in Tunis to make an initial protest and to say to the American side that his return to Washington depends on achieving progress.

The Palestinian delegation held lengthy meetings Sunday evening to discuss the form of protest. The options were either to completely suspend the Palestinian participation or to participate with no more than one third of the delegation.

The Palestinian sources said that the PLO leadership in Tunis is displeased because Saudi Arabia has not honored its promises to resume some of the financial aid programs to the Palestinians. The sources added that Yasir 'Arafat is deeply displeased and embarrassed because these promises are not being honored. 'Arafat believes that he has been deceived and that his credibility has been undermined, particularly since he has ignored a recommendation by chief delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and the majority of the delegation not to return to Washington before fulfilling a large part of these promises or before receiving written commitments to implement them.

On the draft declaration of principles, the Palestinian sources said that it should be completely reformulated. The sources added that the draft declaration does not deal with the issue of land, for example. Therefore, the Palestinian side is not expected—despite U.S. pressure—to sign a joint document that does not clearly define the geographical unit of the Palestinian authority in the transitional period.

Chief Palestinian Negotiator Boycotts Talks

NC1005162393 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpt] Washington, May 10 (AFP)—Human rights issues threatened Monday to cut short the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, now in its third and last week here.

To protest the lack of progress on human rights, the chief Palestinian negotiator Faysal al-Husayni decided not to return to Washington following consultations with the PLO in Tunis.

An official close to the PLO delegation told AFP in Washington that al-Husayni "will only return to the negotiating table if there is progress" in the talks, which were to resume Monday after a three-day break for the weekend.

According to the official, the other Palestinian delegates "might also leave Washington Monday or Tuesday," if there is no movement in the talks.

He said the Palestinians were awaiting the Israeli delegation's response to several of their concerns on human rights, notably the status of 400 Muslim fundamentalists who were expelled in December from the occupied territories to southern Lebanon.

A working session of Israeli-Palestinian committee charged with improving human rights in the West Bank and Gaza was interrupted last week by the Palestinians, who accused Israel of footdragging in the case of the deportees.

The Israelis were themselves awaiting responses to the working documents they submitted last week to their Palestinian and Lebanese counterparts.

The Israeli delegation was withholding all comment until it received responses to its proposals, a delegation source said.

The document submitted to the Palestinians contained a draft declaration of principles calling for internationally-supervised elections in the occupied territories and recognizing the geographic integrity of the territories that should be given autonomy for a five year period. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi Boycotts Meeting

JN1005190493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 May 93

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks has decided—as a protest move—to reduce its members to the afternoon meeting to three members only. Chief delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Palestinian leadership has made this decision because

Israel has failed to fulfill its promises, particularly concerning the issue of deportees in southern Lebanon and human rights. In addition, the draft declaration of principles presented by Israel does not recognize the geographical unit under Palestinian authority during the transitional period. This decision was communicated to the American side which was disturbed by this sudden step. [passage omitted]

To reiterate his deep resentment at the failure to achieve the minimum Palestinian demands, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has decided not to participate in today's meeting. Neither did he participate personally in the intensive contacts with the American side which started Sunday evening and lasted until Monday morning.

In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi held the United States responsible for the deteriorating situation of the talks because it has not straightened out matters and has not insisted on Israel's abidance by the point of reference of the talks. He added that the current deterioration is the result of Washington's stands. [passage omitted]

Israel Names 25 More Deportees

TA1105052093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] In Washington, Israeli negotiators submitted a list of another 25 Palestinian deportees who will be allowed to return immediately from Lebanon. The list was given to American officials because the Palestinians have cut their number of delegates from 12 to three in what they say is a protest over Israel's refusal to keep prior promises. Connie Lonn reports from the U.S. capital:

[Begin recording] [Lonn] There have been some major developments with the Palestinians and the Israelis. Israel has announced it will allow 25 of the Palestinians deported to Lebanon last December to return; this is in addition to the 101 already announced. Israel conveyed this information directly to the State Department. At the same time, Israel protested the fact that the Palestinians have reduced the size of their delegation from 12 to three. They said they took this action as a protest against what they claimed were Israel's continued human rights abuses in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel's act of giving the list directly to the State Department underscores the fact that it could not give the document directly to the Palestinian negotiators. Despite this, Israeli spokesman Yosi Gal says some progress was made:

[Gal] Well, yes, I would say that we are working toward bridging the gaps, and both sides are committed to try and finish this round with some declaration of something. Whether it is do-able or not, we still have three full days of negotiations and, at least as far as Israel is concerned, we'll do our best.

[Lonn] The situation remained tense in the talks between the Israelis and the Syrians. The two negotiators said there was agreement on the general principle of the security, but Itamar Rabinovich said there was no agreement on the specific issue. Those arrangements should be negotiated between groups of military experts in a working group to be established once the principle is agreed to, but at this time, the Israeli ambassador said there has been no progress. [end recording]

Palestinians Reject Israeli Offer

JN1105054593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks has dismissed as completely inadequate Israel's latest offer to allow 25 more of the Palestinians it expelled in December to return home.

Israel made a new offer through a U.S. Government intermediary after the Palestinians made it clear that Israel had not lived up to the promises it made to persuade them to the table, in particular speeding up the return of the 396 men it expelled.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said Israel's offer in January to return 101 of the expellees had already been rejected, and to add 25 more was much less than the Palestinians had been promised.

The Palestinians demonstrated their dissatisfaction with lack of progress by sending just three negotiators to yesterday's session with Israel and suspending three working groups discussing the details of self-rule and human rights in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli Negotiators on Palestinian Stand

TA1005193093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The talks between Israel and the Palestinians will resume in Washington in two hours. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, called on the Palestinians to be people of honor and stand by their commitment to hold businesslike negotiations. He took that step following Palestinian threats over the past two days to boycott the talks and send only a symbolic delegation in protest at the failure of Israel and the United States to fulfill promises on various humanitarian issues linked to the population of the territories. Our Washington correspondent Ya'ir Stern sums up:

[Begin recording] [Stern] The opening of the third week of talks with Syria aroused hopes because of an interview given by Syrian President al-Asad to AL-WASAT, published in London. In the interview, al-Asad said that the Israeli negotiators are beginning to be serious. Professor Rabinovich, is President al-Sadat's declaration over the weekend a green light to his delegation to advance in the talks?

[Rabinovich] It is interesting that, as we have seen several times in the past, the negotiations are not being conducted only in the conference room, but also in the

Middle East arena and through the media. In general, we think much bolder messages would have contributed much more to this process because it is a process that has to move entire societies, and an obtuse or subtle hint is insufficient for something like that. But, in general, the interview has a lot of positive contents, and from that viewpoint, it is timely.

[Stern] On the other side, head of Syrian delegation Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, claims that he has not seen the interview and anyway, what does it have to do with anything. He still claims that Israel has to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights.

[Al-'Allaf, in English] The Israeli delegation negotiating with us on the Syrian-Israeli track knows that until Israel accepts the obligation of full withdrawal there will be no progress in this peace process.

[Stern] It seems that during the remaining four days of talks with Syria there might be progress in the wording, but definitely no breakthrough.

The talks with Jordan began as normal today. Experts from both sides presented their concepts on mutual daily issues. The head of the Israeli delegation Rubinstein was asked how the Israel coalition crisis is influencing the peace negotiations.

[Rubinstein] We are not dealing here with internal Israeli political issues, and I would suggest separating the two, and doing here what we have to do.

[Stern] The latest routine crisis is with the Palestinians. Reports have been coming in since the weekend that they have rejected the Israeli draft proposal on the structure of the autonomy council and threaten to come to the talks in a limited representation. The Palestinians are also angry with the Saudis for not transferring sufficient funds to them and with the Americans for not pressuring Israel enough. But from a telephone conversation between Elyaqim Rubinstein and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi several hours ago, it seems that the Palestinians might appear in full force in the working groups' deliberations. We will have to wait several hours to see if the Palestinians implement their threat or not. [end recording]

Israeli Proposals to Syria, Lebanon

TA1005113893 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 10 May 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] AL-MANAR has obtained the Israeli proposals presented to the Syrian and Lebanese delegations. These proposals are considered the first draft for a settlement and a peace treaty to be concluded between Tel Aviv, Syria, and Lebanon.

"The Proposed Agreement" Presented to Syria

— Full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, apart from retaining two military outposts during the first five years after the signing of the agreement.

—Syria will submit to international inspection of nonconventional weapons and will make do with a fixed ratio of military hardware and a specific number of armed forces.

—Early warning systems will be set up on both sides of the Syrian-Israeli borders.

—International forces, primarily from the United States, will be deployed in the Golan Heights and will set up permanent bases there.

—Damascus and Tel Aviv will declare the establishment of diplomatic relations and the exchange of ambassadors upon the announcement of an agreement between them.

—The entire Golan Heights will be demilitarized except for the U.S. forces.

"The Proposed Agreement" With Lebanon

As for the proposed agreement with Lebanon, which the Lebanese Government discussed last week with Damascus, it is as follows:

—The agreement will be implemented as soon as the Lebanese Government succeeds in disarming the militias operating in Lebanon.

—Occupied southern Lebanon, "the border strip," will be restored to Lebanese sovereignty.

—Joint permanent military committees, as well as joint border patrols, will be set up.

—Three joint permanent military bases, as well as two U.S. bases, will be set up inside the Lebanese borders.

—Ambassadors will be exchanged and a normalization of relations will begin.

—An area 30 km-deep inside Lebanon will be demilitarized. [passage omitted]

Syria's al-'Allaf Comments

JN1005213093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has announced that the discussions in the second [as heard] day meeting as part of the current round dealt with the issues of withdrawal and security.

In a statement following the meeting, al-'Allaf said that the first half of the meeting focused on the issue of withdrawal. In the second half of the meeting, matters pertaining to security were discussed. He added that discussions are continuing on the two issues. Despite the seriousness of discussions, no breakthrough was made, al-'Allaf said.

Replying to a journalist's question, al-'Allaf denied that the talks were close to a joint declaration of principles.

He said: We will feel that such a declaration has become close only when Israel agrees to a full withdrawal, because it should withdraw from the Arab territories which it occupied in 1967.

The Arab delegations to the peace talks resumed their meetings with the Israeli side today, beginning the third and last week of the current ninth round which will end on Thursday. No real breakthrough was made on any track of the talks in the first two weeks of this round, in which seven working meetings were held. The current round was extended for a third week at the request of the U.S. cosponsor of talks in the hope that the additional week will make a breakthrough on the tracks of talks. Given the current signs, however, it seems that there has been nothing to make one believe that such a breakthrough will be made in the last four meetings of this round.

Lebanese Response to Israeli Proposal

NC1105114493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The Lebanese delegation to the bilateral peace talks will convey to the Israeli delegation today the Lebanese response to the Israeli proposals regarding the formation of a joint military committee.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, met with delegation member Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, who carried the response from Beirut. They studied the response before submitting it later today to the Israeli delegation.

Press reports citing knowledgeable sources say that Ambassador Shammas, despite the Israeli side's insistence on not going into details, insisted on bringing up three points with the Israeli delegation regarding the proposal: First, a definition is needed of the political framework outlined in the proposal. Second, does the first part of the proposal express the spirit of the Lebanese position and mean a clear Israeli commitment to it? Third, does the second part express the spirit of the Israeli position?

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Maghreb Foreign Ministers Meeting Postponed

LD0705201593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] A communique issued by the Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] said that in view of sudden commitments in the schedules of the activities of the foreign ministers of some AMU members, the 13th Ordinary Session of the AMU Foreign Ministers Council, the 25th Session of the AMU Foreign Ministers Council, and the 25th Session of the AMU Follow-up Committee, originally scheduled to be held in Tunis on 15 May, have been postponed to the middle of June 1993.

Arab League Criticizes Dependence on Farm Imports

NC0805175693 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 8 (AFP)—The Arab League has blamed its member governments for the Arab world's heavy dependence on farm imports although they have enough money and arable land to achieve food self-sufficiency.

Only 42 million hectares (105 million acres) of the 133 million fertile hectares (330 million acres) in the Arab world were being exploited and the area could decline because of desertification, the 21-member League said in its 1992 economic report obtained here Saturday.

"Among the main obstacles preventing the achievement of food security in the Arab world is the failure to exploit arable land," it said in the report distributed annually by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund.

"Mismanagement inside the public sector is to blame as it hinders rural development while agricultural investment has remained relatively low because of the existence of several investment laws and the abrupt change in them."

Although Arab farm exports steadily grew over the past few years to around five billion dollars in 1990, imports rose to 24 billion dollars and could reach 100 billion dollars by the year 2000. This created a deficit of 19 billion dollars, down three percent over 1989.

Arab officials have repeatedly called for boosting agricultural investment in the region and for providing more incentives to farmers, warning that heavy reliance on imports poses security threats.

"The irony is that the rich Arab nations, especially in the Gulf, are an arid desert while the fertile countries are either poor or suffering from wars and political problems," a Gulf agriculture official said.

The most fertile Arab countries are Sudan, Somalia, and Iraq, but their farming areas have suffered from the devastation of war.

"The cumulative Arab food gap has totalled 149 billion dollars since 1980," the report said. "It stood at nearly 56 billion dollars in cereal, 17 billion dollars in dairy products, tea, coffee and tobacco, 14 billion dollars in sugar and 12 billion dollars in oil and fat."

"Agricultural development in the Arab world is not possible without a revision of investment rules, removal of trade obstacles, and improvement of pricing policies, which are discouraging for farmers."

It said new policies were also needed to encourage the private sector and eliminate obstacles blocking its efforts to set up farming ventures.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Denounces Serbs in Bosnia

LD1005003293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 9 May 93

[Excerpts] Mecca, 09 May (SPA)—The Islamic World League [IWL] has denounced the criminal acts of the Serb bigots who destroyed the mosque of Ferhat Pasha and Aranoutiah in the Bosnian town of Banyaluka—acts that are an aggression against human rights, a criminal destruction of the mosques of Muslims, and abominable crimes against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The secretariat general of the IWL, in a statement issued today, appealed to the Muslim nation for material and moral help and support for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina so that they can stand up to the Serb aggression. [passage omitted]

The IWL affirmed the need to take positive steps against these attacks in order to prevent the Serbs from achieving their ambitions and inflicting destruction on the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina in their present ordeal, and to provide the Muslims with various relief supplies.

The IWL also stressed that the solidarity of upright men in the world will help to lift this dark cloud and injustice and bring salvation to the persecuted.

Muslim Group Deplores Destruction, Seeks Aid for Bosnia

LD1005155193 Riyadh SPA in English 1305 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Mecca, May 10, SPA—The General Secretariat of the Muslim World League (MWL) has deplored the demolition of the mosques of Farhat Basha and Al-Arna'utiyyah in Bosnia by the fanatic Serbians.

This vicious act constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights, said a statement released by the MWL's General Secretariat here last night.

The MWL called on the Muslim nation to extend every possible moral and material assistance to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The MWL, in the statement, urged the Security Council, the UN, the international organizations and the peace-loving nations to work for lifting the arms embargo so as to enable the Muslims of Bosnia- Herzegovina to defend themselves.

The statement reiterated the Muslim solidarity with their brethren in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said positive steps should be taken to end the ordeal of the people in this Balkan country.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Explains Suspending Talks Committees' Work

LD1005190293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Palestinian president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, addressed a message to the masses of our Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and the diaspora on the occasion of the blessed uprising of our people entering its 66th month. [passage omitted]

Brother President Abu-'Ammar said in his address that the past three weeks of the ninth round of negotiations and the accompanying blatant maneuvers of the delegation of the Israeli occupation, as well as the concomitant escalation of premeditated crime against our people in the occupied territories, once more puts things at a dangerous crossroads for which Israel is held responsible. Naturally, the U.S. stand will share the responsibility. He said that the Arab delegations, including our Palestinian delegation, left for Washington in light of the six points studied with Secretary Warren Christopher during his visit to the region and the U.S. Administration. We agreed that these points constitute a measure of the extent of commitment to respect the resolutions of international legality. This was also on the basis of the U.S. promises made to the five foreign ministers and the U.S. promises which were made to us through fraternal and friendly parties, as well as the Arab promises and resolutions, at the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers and the Islamic states' foreign ministers. These have not been implemented as agreed, and this is an attempt to deal a blow to the Palestinian leadership's credibility. This is why we have decided to suspend the current work of all committees of the present round which has not resulted in anything at all in the negotiations and to reduce our delegation to a small, symbolic number so as to finish this round to which we committed ourselves with our Arab brothers. It has become clear that the U.S. side wants to become a full partner in the negotiations but that it ignores completely its promises to us and ignores the fact that we are full partners in them as a Palestinian people and Palestinian leadership. [passage omitted]

I repeat: Let the whole world know that there will be no stability, no security, and no peace in the region without achieving the national rights of the Palestinian people in its homeland, its Jerusalem, and its sanctities and in accordance with international legitimacy. Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar went on to say in his message: With God's blessings and guidance, we start a new month of the intifadah at sensitive and crucial moments in our people's history and our cause. These conditions demand from us all to consolidate our national steadfastness, strengthen our national unity, and escalate our blessed intifadah and our daily courageous resistance wave after wave and stage after stage until everyone is

convinced that it is impossible to break the will of our fighting, believing people, and that it is completely impossible, as I have told you before, to make a true peace that could survive without the Palestinian peace, and the establishment of our independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem for its capital. [passage omitted]

PLO's Abu-Mazin on Latest Round of Talks

PM1005162793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 May 93 p 7

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] Over a week has passed since the resumption of the negotiations. How would you assess the ninth round, and what do you expect from it?

['Abbas] We must first talk about what happened before the ninth round.

There were many difficulties which nearly prevented the resumption of the peace process and caused a number of Palestinian leaders to believe that it was futile to resume the negotiations.

Among the most important difficulties was the fact that the previous eight rounds had achieved no progress; in addition there was Israel's intransigence with regard to the deportees question.

However, the prevailing opinion in the PLO leadership was that we should continue the negotiations and demand what we want with regard to Palestinian human rights and at the same time seek to mobilize world public opinion for the sake of progress in the substance of the negotiations.

It is unreasonable that the negotiations are still held to ransom by any sudden developments emanating from Israel, especially since, when we originally entered the negotiations, we did not agree to prepare for them by suspending the activities being pursued by our people to get rid of the occupation. Although these activities do not justify the Israeli reactions, my opinion is that the negotiations should be kept away from this issue and that their resumption should not be affected by such matters.

We can now say that the return of some of those deported after 1967 and some of the measures being taken by the Israeli Government to unite Palestinian prisoners and their families are reassuring indications for Palestinian public opinion and not a bad start, albeit insufficient.

Add to this the fact that Faysal al-Husayni joined the negotiating delegation, representing Jerusalem, while Dr. Ahmad al-Khalidi and Dr. Kamil Mansur joined the negotiations from the outside [the occupied territories]—and it completes the circle of the Palestinian representation we have been damanding since the Madrid conference.

We believe that these indications are positive, thus we believe that the new atmosphere surrounding the ninth round presages some seriousness which could lead us to an agreement on a declaration of principles or a framework of action which could be a fundamental basis for drawing up the features of the transitional phase. We do not want to talk about optimism or pessimism. Nor do we want to overtake events. But what we can say is that we hope to achieve in this or the next round tangible progress that puts the settlement train on the track.

[Al-Qulaybi] Do you expect progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

['Abbas] I believe that it is premature to talk about that issue, because the matter depends on this week and the coming weeks. That is, if all the parties agree to extend the duration of the ninth round for more than two weeks.

At any rate, the first week of the ninth round has been characterized by agreement to form three committees: one for territory, waters, and settlement; one for the concept of the transitional phase; and one for human rights issues.

We noted how the discussions in the committee concerning the concept of the transitional phase dealt with the issues concerning authority, legal geographical authority, and the other issues which could be a basis for the framework of an agreement.

But the shortness of the period prompts us not to judge the results hastily. We prefer to negotiate for a longer time, but in this point in particular we adhere to the Arab position.

[Al-Qulaybi] Do you believe that the obstacles which existed in the previous eight rounds have been surmounted?

['Abbas] There are still major obstacles. And there are still differences of opinion and differing positions. That is natural. Thus we cannot say that we have now moved closer to one another. However, it can be said that all the parties are talking seriously. That is the difference between the previous rounds and the present round. And we trust that our hopes and expectations will not be dashed.

[Al-Qulaybi] What points are still the object of deep disagreement between you and the Israelis?

['Abbas] There are important points concerning the settlement question, the Jerusalem question, and the territory question in general, as well as the question of linking the phases. All these are fundamental and sensitive issues which we must discuss.

We are now at the beginning of the road of serious discussion. It will need a lot of time, a heated dialogue, and detailed and in-depth discussions. And here the U.S. and Russian partners' role emerges—in presenting proposals to bring views closer and mediate between us and the Israelis.

[Al-Qulaybi] What did Palestinian negotiating delegation members Sa'ib 'Uraygat and Sami al-Kilani, who returned to Tunis a few days ago, convey to you about the results of the first week of the negotiations?

['Abbas] What they conveyed prompts further interest and confirms that our decision to participate in the ninth round was right and was taken at the right time.

[Al-Qulaybi] And what instructions did the Palestinian leadership give to 'Uraygat before his return to Washington?

['Abbas] In brief, the PLO leadership's instructions centered around stressing the need to engage in serious negotiations to secure a joint action framework through the two working committees formed for this purpose, and to continue to demand human right issues through the third committee.

[Al-Qulaybi] How would you assess the U.S. partner's performance at the beginning of the ninth round, and do you believe that the United States is committed to the role of a full partner and impartial intermediary?

['Abbas] You can say that the Americans appeared more serious and enthusiastic than before. And there are indications of greater involvement in the negotiations on their part.

But the features of a full partner, which we understand and about which we spoke to them, have not emerged in the present negotiations yet. Perhaps the reason is that we are still at the beginning of the ninth round and thus we must wait for some time.

On the whole, U.S. statements and positions—especially with regard to the courageous decision taken by the PLO leadership concerning participation in the ninth round of negotiations; their appreciation of that decision; and what our delegation sensed at the first meeting with U.S. Administration officials, in particular Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his assistant for Middle East affairs Edward Djerejian—cause us to be optimistic that the United States has a real desire to play its role as a full partner.

[Al-Qulaybi] What is the truth about increasing disagreements and divisions in Palestinian ranks after the leadership's decision to participate in the ninth round of negotiations?

['Abbas] There was a disagreement over the decision to participate in the ninth round, and it did cause the brothers in the Palestinian People's Party to abandon this round. But we have assurances that they will not stay away from the negotiations. That is, they have not changed their opinion of the negotiating principle. And I believe that the reasons which led to their nonparticipation will disappear soon. As for the traditional opponents—I mean the factions residing [as published]—that is a different matter, because they are basically opposed to the negotiation process as a whole, and we cannot obstruct the Palestinian people's future because of their positions.

Israelis, Palestinians Hold 'Secret' Meeting on Gaza

NC1105103893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0901 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Beirut, 11 May (MENA)—The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR today cites informed Arab sources as saying that a secret meeting was held in London among former Israeli military intelligence chief Shlomo Gazet [name as received], who is close to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and a number of Israeli figures and groups of Palestinians operating within the PLO, including Walid al-Khalidi and Yazid Sayigh.

The paper reports that the meeting, which was part of secret diplomatic efforts in parallel with the Washington talks, discussed differences over the self-rule plan currently under discussion.

The sources told the paper that the confrees focused on the Israeli withdrawal "plan" from the Gaza Strip, which will come up at a later stage of the negotiations. They said that the Israelis proposed a withdrawal plan in which Israeli forces would remain at sensitive positions inside the Gaza Strip, the creation of a joint transitional council, and Egyptian and Jordanian forces replacing the Israelis at the positions they will vacate.

Arab Countries' Aid in Training Police Preferred

PM1005140393 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 May 93 p 1

[Wafa' 'Amr report: "Arab States Agree to Train Palestinian Police"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, Amman—AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that the negotiating Palestinian delegation is going to submit to its Israeli counterpart a new list of people, deported since 1967, whom it wants returned to their homeland like the 30 deportees whom the Israeli authorities have already allowed to return. The first group arrived with their families in the occupied West Bank yesterday. The great reception given to the first batch of the deportees who returned to the occupied territories last Friday has encouraged the PLO to stress the return of the largest possible number of earlier deportees.

Meanwhile an official Palestinian spokesman has revealed to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI the PLO's rejection of an Israeli proposal to set up an Arab police force to take charge of security during the transitional phase.

The spokesman said: "This rejection stems from the fact that control over the police would be incomplete under the occupation." He added: "We are for setting up and supervising the police after the end of the occupation."

The spokesman said that the PLO has signed agreements with Morocco, Egypt, and Yemen to train groups of Palestinian police officers and soldiers in preparation for assuming security tasks once the Israeli withdrawal takes place. The cadres have been chosen from among law graduates in particular.

The spokesman said that the PLO had turned down offers from foreign states to train Palestinian security men. He said that "Palestinian security is part of pan-Arab security, thus we refuse to have training conducted in non-Arab states." [passage omitted]

Hamas Leaflet Rejects 'Political Assassinations'

TA1005083793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 93 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein, correspondent in the territories]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] declared its unequivocal objection to political assassinations. The movement's statement was published against the backdrop of the harassment of Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat's family members several weeks ago.

The movement's declaration states: "We warn the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations and those who stand behind it—the PLO leadership—against pursuing the peace process, forfeiting our people's rights. We call on all our people to take action in every legitimate way to deter the delegation from pursuing its present course of action but without threats and political assassinations, which we urge to reject."

The statement appears in Hamas leaflet No. 98, distributed in the territories under the headline: "No to Those Who Sacrifice the Nation's Fate." The leaflet sharply attacks the delegation's political outlook, noting that "anyone condoning or cooperating with the peace process does not represent our nation."

The leaflet proceeds, however, with a call to all the Palestinian factions to renew contacts in a bid to draft a national covenant that will avert internal strife and be based on "the unity of Jihad and the struggle against the Zionist enemy." [passage omitted]

The Hamas leaflet further notes that the movement favors the return of every Palestinian deportee, warning that the return of a fraction of the deportees (the reference here is to the 30 old-time deportees returned last week) may prove to be bait that will lead to the deportees in south Lebanon being forgotten and to the promotion of the "ridiculous administrative government."

UN Report Cited on Abuse of Palestinians in Territories

NC0805154593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Shams al-Din Ndiaye, Senegal's ambassador to Egypt and representative of the head of a UN fact-finding committee on human rights violations in the occupied territories, held a news conference in Cairo today to discuss the results of the committee's investigations into Israel's violations of Palestinian rights in the occupied Arab territories. He noted that the committee members had met with Muhab Muqbil, Egyptian assistant foreign minister; senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials; and senior officials in both Jordan and Syria. The committee also listened to the testimony of a number of Palestinians in the three countries. He added that according to the information available to it, the committee confirms that Israel continues to violate the rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories and that the Israeli acts of violence have increased considerably since Yitzhaq Rabin assumed power.

He added that the number of intifadah martyrs has risen, homes have been blown up, and the occupied Arab territories have been placed under siege. In addition to deporting Palestinians, Israel is detaining thousands of them, he added. He noted that the atmosphere of violence and tension has worsened as a result of the continued deployment of Israeli special units, which attack Palestinians.

Algeria

Chairman Ali Kafi Views Current Problems

LD1005223693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 93

[Replies by Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi to questions from directors of information establishments in Algiers on 9 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kafi] [passage omitted] Mr. Mohamed Abbes, please.

[Mohamed Abbes] You expressed in your speech yesterday satisfaction at the progress of the dialogue with the parties. I would like to know more about the extent of the acceptance by the parties you talked to of the idea of the transitional period and the formula of the presidential body during this stage. Thank you.

[Kafi] As you know, the Higher State Council [HSC] drew up a program. Before doing so, we put questions to ourselves: Do we come up with our own ideas on how to come out of this crisis, or do we seek the help of others in coming out of this crisis, in consultation and dialogue with others, with all people? Of course, the crisis facing the country is a big one. It is primarily a political crisis that has led to other crises: the economic crisis and the complex social crisis as you know it. These are the results of accumulations and mistakes. [passage omitted]

We reached the conclusion that we must consult, and that this consultation should develop to a dialogue, and this dialogue should be deep. [passage omitted]

Indeed we are satisfied with the first round of the dialogue, because all the organizations and the associations have indeed enriched the discussions. They left us very important documents, which we are considering and which fall within the context of the renewed national program. The parties we talked to also presented their own ideas: There are things on which there is agreement and others on which there is no agreement.

What happened in the second round of the dialogue? Several things happened that could undermine the foundations of these meetings and this dialogue. It is as if there is somebody who wants to push the HSC to take measures that have not been taken into account at all, and from which we are totally removed. A specific quarter says: Do not meet the Islamists, and other quarters say: Do not meet with the laity. Come on! Given an authorized party, you tell me: Do not talk to this or that side, do not have a dialogue with it, and you want me to have a dialogue with you only. But who are you for me to have a dialogue with you only and not with somebody else? Let me have a dialogue with everybody. I listen to your view and that of others. The Algerian people are 26 million- strong, and we are on the threshold of 30 million. Why a monopoly, why not accept other people's views? [passage omitted]

I will have a dialogue with he who is present. Yes, I will have a dialogue with he who is present, and with every reasonable person in order to get the country out of this ordeal. Therefore, the coming meetings will not take place individually between the HSC and just one party. There will be political families close to one another. We will divide the groups with whom we have had meetings into five, six, seven groups, and we will meet with them.

What matters is that we get out of the crisis with a document over which there is a consensus, national consensus. We will ensure the participation of everybody in this issue. Algeria does not belong to just one, it belongs to all Algerians who have the right to give their views on these issues, and to take part effectively in the running of the coming stage.

Let everybody know that we in the HSC have laid down a plan from which we cannot deviate, until we implement it. We will not return to crises. Therefore, everybody should take part in resolving this crisis. [passage omitted]

He who loves this homeland and loves this people must work for getting out of the crisis, in the shortest manner and quickly. Therefore, we are carrying out to the end the plan we have laid down, and welcome anyone assuming their responsiblity, and public opinion will judge anyone who fails to bear responsibility.

[Belhouchet] Mr. Chairman, good evening, Omar Belhouchet from the EL WATAN newspaper. You talked about the Consultative Council and said that it will be widened and the widening will be of the parties. Does this widening mean that this new council will have the prerogative, the freedom, to work in depth, to legislate and have much work?

[Kafi] In the consultations and the dialogue with all the brothers who took part in it, whether they were associations or parties, we arrived at two main points: the widening and granting of powers to this council. What remains is the procedural work. We have not yet discussed the issue of the numbers and the powers. All this will become clear in the second stage of the dialogue. Here we mention that at the recent inter-parliamentary meeting in India, international parliamentarians recognized the Consultative Council. Thus it is internationally recognized. Thus it must be given powers, be widened to represent the tendencies we have spoken to, whether parties or associations. Whether social, economic, or other associations.

[Announcer] To a lengthy question on the issue of bribery, Mr. Ali Kafi replied:

[Kafi] We must settle the issue of bribery and corruption. No one in authority, from the HSC downward, even to the municipality, and this is a popular demand, that there can be no slackening in the fight against bribery and corruption [sentence as heard]. Anyone with a case should be brought to justice, which will consider his case. But we should not resort to sensationalism and defame

some institutions which do not keep quiet on such matters. [passage omitted] Brother Ali, please.

[Ali] In the 14 January speech there was a program which called for reconsidering some articles of the constitution. In your speech yesterday this point was not mentioned or stressed. Another question on the resolving of the crisis. Does the dialogue concern all the issues pertaining to the crisis; economic, political, social, cultural and educational? Or does the dialogue concern only political issues? Thank you.

[Kafi] Thank you. The issue of the constitution concerns the nation as a whole; it concerns Algerian society. You are aware that we talked about the amendments of some paragraphs, which do not alter the essence and the bases of the constitution; it concerns some organizational issues. However, there are those who want to revise the whole constitution and they want to create another crisis out of that, which we can do without, and the Algerian people reject that. If they want us to erase the term "the religion of the state is Islam," that is not possible. If they want to harm the nation's language, that is not possible, and so on. The constants of the nation will remain because they belong to the nation and the nation is the one concerned and it will be ballotted because the amendment of the constitution, yes, some paragraphs which concern organizational issues [sentence as heard]. However, if it concerns core issues, we will be mixing other papers and enter a crisis which may harm the independence and unity of the country and so on. It is not possible for us to take that path.

The resolution of the crisis; the issue is not a political one. The parties and associations have all discussed all the facets. They discussed political issues, social issues, the housing issue and the issue of the educational establishment. They have all talked about these issues. Therefore, the dossier, the complete dossier, will be submitted for discussion. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified journalist] Mr. Chairman, good evening. Once the transition stage starts and once the body is there that will be managing the transition stage, what will be the nature of the relationship of this new authority with the government, particularly when we know that the government has laid down a special program of a few years to get out of the crisis? Similarly, what will be the relationship between such an authority and the enlarged or new consultative council? Thank you.

[Kafi] The two questions are linked. The issue of the delay requested by the government and accepted by the HSC, and accepted even by the parties, is not a matter of one or two or three months. The credibility of the program is one thing, and the question of the persons to run it is another. Things would not calm down with our departure from the HSC. Anyone can run the council, but what matters is that we agree on a solid platform concerning our present and future. [passage omitted]

As for your last question and the nature of the relationship between the consultative council and the new body, this is premature too. This also will be the subject of discussions by all the sides. [passage omitted]

Recent Terrorist Attacks in Country Reported

LD0905132493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] A terrorist group, composed of between 10 to 15 persons, killed two policemen at about 0800 yesterday in Tazoult District, Batna Province. Batna security services indicated that the terrorist group stormed the district's police station, opened fire on two policemen, and then escaped .

From Laghouat Province, the national gendarmerie command stated that seven people were apprehended at Laghouat accused of forming a terrorist group. It was also learned from the same source that one terrorist, wanted by the police because of his involvement in murders in Medea, was also arrested at Blida during a routine control operation by the gendarmes. The same source stated that the person in question is named Mohamed Boukacemi, a teacher at a Medea college.

At Chlef, the body of 28-year-old Mouamar Mohammadi was found; he worked as a plumber and lived at Zeboudja. He had been shot.

The Hadj Djilali school in Ain Isken, Mascara Province, was the target of an arson attack by a terrorist group at 2000 yesterday. The national gendarmerie command, which issued this report today, stated that luckily this arson only destroyed one classroom thanks to the strong intervention of citizens who were able to put out the fire.

B'nai B'rith, Savak Said Behind 'Terrorists'

LD1005002193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] An informed source in Algiers stated that Uzi machine guns and Israeli cartridges that had been seized from terrorists in Algeria made it possible to learn about the networks through which these weapons have been used. It was revealed that the Israeli espionage services Mosad and the Iranian Savama Khalifah Savak had a hand in this.

The same source explained, according to the APS cable today, that the powerful Israeli B'nai B'rith organization finances the terrorists in the refugee camps in Germany. In return, the German authorities give permission for intelligence men who specially come from Israel to interrogate the Algerians.

The source added that the Israeli organization B'nai B'rith takes responsibility for the Algerian (?recruits). It transports them from one country to another through its branch offices in Marseilles, Oujdah, and Alicante in Spain.

These weapons, as a point of explanation, are easy to use and they are deadly. They are used by international

terrorist networks, the Mafia, and drug merchants. They appeared in Algeria at the beginning of last February when the terrorist networks were affected by the detention drives waged by the security forces. Nine machine guns were seized, four of which were Uzis and five Skorpions. They were shown to the press in April, the same source said.

Local Enterprises, Government Sign Agreement

LD0805185693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Negotiations between the government and the central trade union [UGTA] about the fate of local enterprises were culminated today at Setif Province with the signing of an agreement between the provincial trade union and the provincial institutions. This operation is the first of its kind at the national level and crowns six months of negotiations.

Here is Mohamed Taher Dilmi, the national secretary in charge of information assessing this agreement:

[Begin Dilmi recording] With regard to the agreement concerning the local enterprises, I would like to recall that only a year ago those very enterprises were threatened with dismemberment and eradication, and the workers in those enterprises were on the verge of a collective redundency. However, thanks to the efforts of the UGTA and the government, within the framework of the government we were able first to return the lifeblood to those local groups and then give them maximum importance. [end recording]

Association Seeks To Prosecute French 'War Crimes'

LD0805143893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Report on proceedings of 8 May 1945 Association's Fourth International Symposium on War Crimes Against Humanity]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Here are the impressions of the national secretary of the Sons of the Martyrs about the proceedings of this symposium.

[Begin secretary recording] We say that if all peoples have the right to bring to account all those who committed criminal acts against them, why did we not also have the right to take the case before the international bodies to restore the Algerian people's honor, and secondly to uncover the facts and expose the crimes which occurred during the French occupation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

On the sidelines of the Fourth International Symposium on War Crimes Against Humanity, the chairman of the 8 May 1945 Association, Mr. Bachir Boumaza gave a news conference at which he stressed that he is continuing his efforts to have France brought to trial for war crimes.

[Begin Boumaza recording] I have a strategy, I will tell you, I have a strategy. If the conditions are met, next year we will set up what are known as 'people's tribunals'—and they exist already such as the Russell Tribunal. We will judge them from a moral point of view. We will compile the files against them and will pass a moral sentence on them. Every year we will compile more and more files, may God keep us alive until then, until the case is examined and the climate changes. [words indistinct] I say that instead of collaborating with French to write a joint history of Algeria, I am going to oppose this. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Egypt

Foreign Minister on Terrorism, Mubarak Gulf Tour

NC1005213693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2116 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt rejects using religion as a cover for terrorist operations, saying that this affects religion's reputation. The foreign minister denied that Egypt is involved in an international political campaign against Iran, stressing at the same time the government's determination to resist the factors of incitement and extremism [words indistinct] religion in politics. This came in an interview the BBC correspondent in Muscat held with Musa before his departure for Kuwait earlier today. The foreign minister did not rule out the possibility of forming an Arab or regional front against terrorism and said that coordination in such circumstances is necessary.

Asked whether President Husni Mubarak is seeking during his current Gulf tour to revive the Damascus Declaration, or whether he is working on a bilateral basis and does not link Egypt's security presence in the Gulf with economic cooperation with the Gulf states, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that there is no connection between security coordination and economic cooperation. However, all these matters ultimately are linked with the political and economic aspects, Arab solidarity, and bilateral relations.

Musa said that the economy ministers of the Damascus Declaration states will meet on 18 May and the foreign ministers on 12 June. Since meetings are scheduled, there is no need to discuss the issue, and any discussion should be postponed until after these meetings.

He said that now is not the time to end the effects of the Gulf war or even to prepare for an Arab summit.

Sudan Denies Accepting Expelled Extremists

NC1005143993 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 10 (AFP)—Sudan on Monday denied taking in Egyptian Islamic extremists from Pakistan,

dismissing such allegations as "propaganda" as a war of words escalated between the neighbouring countries.

Cairo in turn accused Khartoum on Monday [10 May[of mounting its own propaganda campaign, denouncing a Sudanese claim that Egypt had arrested an unspecified number of its policemen after giving Sudanese security forces 48 hours to stop activity in a disputed oil-rich border region.

A Sudanese embassy spokesman here said Egypt had made no protest to the Islamic-backed junta in Khartoum about the 230 alleged deportees, who are wanted by Cairo authorities.

"Sudan has also not been contacted by Pakistan about possible expulsions," the spokesman added.

An Egyptian foreign ministry official Saturday said the Muslim fundamentalists, veterans of the Afghan war wanted here in connection with a wave of armed extremist activity, had been sent to Sudan.

"Pakistan should have handed over these terrorists to Egypt because their presence at the Egyptian-Sudanese border is a time-bomb," the official who declined to be identified told AFP.

But the Sudanese spokesman called the Egyptian claim "propaganda aimed at increasing tension" between the two countries.

Egypt has initiated discussions with Pakistan for the repatriation of the war veterans who settled in Peshawar after the fall of the communist regime in Kabul.

An Egyptian security source has charged that Afghan veterans, estimated officially at 1,500, finance and set up terrorist operations carried out by fundamentalists in Egypt to destabilise the government.

Some 140 people have been killed in fundamentalist violence since March 1992, including three foreign tourists.

Pakistan on Sunday denied expelling any Egyptian militants, but stated that some could have left of their own free will.

Saudi businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin, according to the Egyptian official, acted as a middle man between Pakistan, Sudan and the militants to finance their trip and accommodations in Sudan.

Bin-Ladin "pretends to be an Islamic militant. He is wanted by the Saudi authorities for activities hostile to the government in that country," another official at the foreign ministry said.

Sudanese Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn on Sunday charged that Egyptian security forces had arrested an unspecified number of Sudanese police officers in the disputed frontier region of Hala'ib.

Sudan responded by arresting three Egyptian policemen, Brigadier- General Husayn added, according to an official source.

He told a gathering of western and Arab ambassadors in Khartoum that the Egyptian move came after Cairo gave Sudanese authorities 48 hours to cease all activity in the disputed territory on the Red Sea border.

The minister of state to the president's office, Ghazi Salah-al- Din 'Atabani, told the meeting that the junta "takes seriously" a warning Egypt issued on Thursday threatening to use force if Sudan did not bow to its demands over the disputed frontier triangle.

In Cairo, Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman Naji al-Ghatrifi said Sunday he could "neither confirm nor deny the incidents."

In a third development Monday, Khartoum accused Cairo of seeking to sabotage peace talks in Nigeria between the junta and south Sudanese rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

The Sudanese armed forces daily newspaper said Egypt was offering SPLA leader Colonel John Garang arms and money not to reach a peace settlement.

'Concrete Evidence' of Iranian Link With Violence

NC1105094593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0846 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 May (MENA)—Citing high-ranking Egyptian sources, the al-Shariqah-based AL-KHALIJ newspaper reports that during his current tour of the region, President Husni Mubarak is bringing to the Gulf the "first concrete evidence of Iran's involvement in the violence the Muslim extremists are committing in Egypt."

The Egyptian sources said the defendants in two cases heard by the Egyptian judiciary have spoken of a link between Iran and Egyptian, Algerian, and Tunisian extremists who have received training in Sudan.

The sources added that President Mubarak will discuss with Gulf leaders "Iranian attempts to export its revolution to neighboring countries" and will express his concern over Iran's activities in Sudan. The sources said Cairo has evidence that Sudan has received 230 Egyptians who participated in the Afghan war.

Hizballah Called Iran's 'Trojan Horse' in Arab World

NC1105132793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2142 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR describes Hizballah as a Trojan horse in the Arab world, operating to benefit Iran. Hizballah is exploiting the tragedy created by the civil war in Lebanon, which it, among others, ignited.

In a commentary in its 11 May issue, the paper says that Hizballah implements the designs of its masters in Tehran by spreading anarchy, exporting terrorism to the area—particularly to Egypt—and dividing the Palestinian resistance movement under the false call for jihad for the liberation of Palestine.

The paper affirms that Hizballah will remain the party of Satan in Lebanon, and will remain a dangerous center for spreading and exporting terrorism in the Arab region until the Lebanese authorities clip its wings and control its secret activities and operations in southern Lebanon, which are considered one of the main reasons for the Israeli occupation of the south and Israel's refusal to withdraw from it.

Iranian 'Conspiracy' Against Government Examined

NC1105122193 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 5 May 93 pp 3-5

[Article by Chief Editor Muhammad Wajdi Qandil: "The Conspiracy: Iran and Terrorism; What Is Behind Iran's Scheme Against Egypt?"]

[Excerpts] Is it a conspiracy against Egypt proceeding along a specific track and in the direction of specific goals? Is it a scheme concocted against Mubarak's regime that is disguised under the veil of extremism and terrorism in order to undermine reform measures and accomplishments? Is it a plot by Iran to besiege Egypt from within and export the Iranian revolution to it through extremist groups in order to eliminate the leadership and the opposition to the designs of the mullahs' regime? Or is it a multilateral plot in which Iran is playing the biggest role?

Iran's endeavors, through conspiracy and incitement, to overthrow the regime in Egypt are beyond any doubt. There is no longer any doubt about the scheme of the Iranian regime, disguised under a black cloak, to export Khomeyni's revolution to the North African states and use Sudan as a bridgehead to the neighboring countries to penetrate Egypt from its southern border. [passage omitted]

How can we interpret Khamene'i's intervention in Egyptian internal affairs and his encouragement of outlawed extremists and their terrorist operations? And how can we understand Iran's backing for the extremist groups in Egypt and its financing and training of their members in Afghanistan and Sudan? According to my information, a secret conference was recently held in Tehran in which 400 leading extremists and representatives of fundamentalist groups from Egypt, Algeria, Tunis, Jordan, and Lebanon participated. The meeting was also attended by officials from the revolution exporting bureau at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the Iranian Intelligence Service, and 'Ali Khamene'i's bureau. Among the conferees were representatives from the Islamic Group in Egypt, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Hizballah. The main topic on the agenda was overthrowing the regime in Egypt, before Algeria, and acting against President Mubarak's regime. According to the Iranian viewpoint, if the Egyptian regime falls, after that it will be easy to topple the other Arab regimes!

There are reports on Iranian terrorist schemes against Egypt. Iran has allocated $500 million this year to support the extremist groups in Arab and Islamic states and already paid 30 million to Hamas and Hizballah in the West Bank and Gaza. However, there is another undeclared budget, which amounts to more than $1 billion, at the disposal of Khamene'i from which he is spending on secret activities to export the Iranian revolution. Most of the Islamic groups get paid from this budget. [passage omitted]

The path of international terrorism walked by the mullahs of Iran harms Islam and distorts Iran's relations with Egypt and other Arab countries. For its part, Egypt never tried under any circumstances to interfere in Iran's domestic affairs, and the same goes for Sudan. This is the rule that Mubarak established for himself from the start. He was eager to establish balanced relations with Arab and Islamic states, including Iran. Despite the Iranian regime's hostile statements, obscene language, false allegations, and devilish intentions against Egypt, during the Iran-Iraq war, Egypt supported Iraq only when the Iranian incursion reached Iraqi territories. Despite all this, Egyptian efforts centered on the need to end the bloodshed between the two Islamic states.

Egypt could respond to the Iranian regime, but it does not want to intervene in Iran and does not want to reciprocate violence with violence. It is not hard to penetrate Iran from within, recruit elements from those opposed to the mullahs' regime, stir up trouble for the ayatollahs, take advantage of the internal difficulties and deteriorating economic conditions, and reexport sabotage to Iran. Also it is not hard to exhaust and wear out the Iranian regime, but what fruit would Islam gain from an exchange of violence between two major Islamic states and what could be the consequences of such a struggle? [passage omitted]

New Muslim Brotherhood Newspaper Appears

NC1105085693 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 5 May 93 p 7

[Report by Misbah Qutb]

[Text] What happened on 17 April could be a turning point in the history of the Muslim Brotherhood movement or it could be just a chapter in the group's attempts to regain its direct organizational existence since its dissolution in 1953. What happened on this day? How did it happen? What are the implications of this? To what extent will it affect the group and its attempts to establish an alliance with some parties?

The AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH [Arab Family] newspaper is a weekly that was published by the Liberal Party the year before last. Publication of the paper was suspended several weeks later because of losses, and then it

resumed as a daily specializing in publishing declarations about registering private companies. Suddenly, since the 87th edition on 18 April [as published], it has become a purely Brotherhood newspaper from A to Y—as there is one person who does not belong to the Muslim Brotherhood who writes a column in it. He is Dr. Mahmud Yasir, a businessman, deputy leader of the Liberal Party, and chairman of the newspaper's board of directors. Dr. Yasir was, by the way, the person who rescued a number of Israelis in his car following the Ismailia bus incident.

On the surface, it seems that this was a meeting of two wills. Dr. Yasir was looking for a chief editor for the paper, and conferred with many people about it, including his friend Anis Mansur. Several names were suggested to promote the paper and benefit from the printing equipment the Liberal Party has bought recently for about half a million pounds. The Muslim Brotherhood was looking for an independent platform—their constant complaint—or let us say an additional platform to increase their influence and they anticipated the various possibilities it offered in relations with the state and the Labor Party. It is known that the Brotherhood have a media platform in the AL-SHA'B and AL-HAQIQAH newspapers and a limited platform in 'AQIDATI newspaper through the regular column of Muhammad 'Amarah. Their attempts to gain prominence through four pages of AL-NUR [AL-HAQIQAH and AL-NUR are Islamic oriented publications affiliated with the Liberal Party] newspaper have failed, according to Dr. Hilmi Murad [Labor Party secretary general] who adds: They also wanted to monopolize the Friday edition of AL-SHA'B, but this did not materialize.

Thus the Muslim Brotherhood has made attempts on different fronts against the background of many changes. There were reports recently about differences between the Labor Party and the Brotherhood which will be reflected in the forthcoming general conference of the Labor Party. According to Murad, the conference will be held on 6 and 7 May. These Brotherhood attempts were also made against the background of indications of a change in the official position toward the Labor Party. The party's leader Ibrahim Shukri was invited to the Tabah celebrations. This was the first time he has been invited to a presidential function since the Gulf war, Murad says. In this atmosphere, negotiations took place with the Liberal Party. An informed party source said that the alliance between the Brotherhood and the Liberal Party has existed for some time, but has not borne fruit as did the alliance with the Labor Party. The source attributed the reason as the Brotherhood's position on the visit of Mustafa Kamal Murad and President al-Sadat to Israel, and their position on some members of the party presidium. The last problem was resolved by removing these members, but Mustafa Murad maintained his position. The source said that the Brotherhood "understood this and acknowledged that we agree on the end and disagree on the means." The Brotherhood first asked that they be given only four pages of the paper, but the chairman of the board objected and insisted that they should be given full control as a middle line in the opposition papers is useless, he said.

The functions of editing and advertising have been given to the Brotherhood team. The Liberal Party retained control of the distribution, printing, and accounting departments. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, member of the Journalists Association council [and a columnist with AL-SHA'B], was among the candidates for chief editor. However, Ahmad Sayf al-Islam [Muslim Brotherhood figure and secretary of the Lawyers Association] named Islamic writer 'Abd-al-Mun'im Salim Jibarah in the post.

It should be recalled that Jibarah was the last chief editor of AL-DA'WAH, a Muslim Brotherhood publication that was closed down since they clashed with former President Anwar al-Sadat.

'Abd-al-Quddus said that AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH is the first Brotherhood weekly in 40 years (AL-DA'WAH was a monthly publication).

Jibarah said that AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH will work within the framework of the Liberal Party, adding that the Brotherhood will continue to seek media and organizational independence. Jibarah said that the Brotherhood rejects all existing restrictions on political and media life and believes that all parties should be allowed to express their views freely and seek a common ground to serve the national cause.

AL-AHALI learned that the first edition of AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH sold approximately 9,000 of the 20,000 copies that were printed. Jibarah said that the newspaper is still in the experimental stage and that no arrangements have yet been made for its distribution abroad.

Jibarah recalled that AL-DA'WAH reached a total circulation of 90,000 copies, including 40,000 sold abroad.

Hilmi Murad said that AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH, in its new Brotherhood garb, has not affected AL-SHA'B, mentioning that the Brotherhood audience is financially "capable" of patronizing a daily newspaper. The Brotherhood audience can afford to buy AL-SHA'B, AL-HAQIQAH, and AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH at the same time.

Murad ruled out a possible estrangement between the Labor Party and the Brotherhood. He said that both are currently "on the defensive" and have no reason to quarrel or split.

Mahmud Yasir Ramadan said that the publication of AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH with a Brotherhood affiliation refutes claims that the regime is clamping down on the Labor Party and the Brotherhood. Ramadan, who has prepared a study on how Brotherhood affiliation affects the circulation of the opposition newspapers,

predicts that the publication of AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH will actually affect the circulation of both AL-SHA'B and AL-HAQIQAH.

Jibarah said that AL-NUR and AL-HAQIQAH have not affected AL- SHA'B. Similarly, he does not expect AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH to affect AL-SHA'B unless it contains better and more powerful treatment of such national issues as negotiations, security, education, and the public sector.

Ramadan says that he is thinking of appointing a chief editor for the daily issue of the newspaper. Jibarah said that it is possible to handle a Brotherhood daily, noting that there has not been before a purely Brotherhood newspaper.

Knowing that papers can make or break parties, can the publication be a test of the Brotherhood's readiness to function as a party that accepts democratic pluralism?

Hilmi Murad says that the Labor Party's alliance with the Brotherhood focuses mainly on cooperation in parliamentary and local council elections. Press cooperation, he added, took place on the basis of voluntary contributions by Brotherhood figures.

Jibarah said that the issue is not whether the Brotherhood, following the publication of AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH, will have independent lists—probably lists sponsored by the Liberal Party. The question, he adds, is when will the "curious" restrictions on political life be removed so that everyone can take part freely in the country's political life.

The developments surrounding the terrorism phenomenon will, in AL-AHALI's opinion, provide the answer to this question.

Publication Criticized

NC1105094893 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 May 93 p 16

[From Samir Rajab "Dividing Lines" column: "Those Who Stick Out Their Tongues at the Law"]

[Text] It is well known that the law bans the activities of the so-called Muslim Brotherhood. It is unnecessary to say that members of this dissolved organization were unable to take part in any previous elections because they do not represent a recognized party, a matter that prompted them to take cover, at one time, under the Wafd Party, or another time to hide behind the Labor Party. It is taken for granted that this "dissolved organization" has no jurisdiction to publish a newspaper because the law gives this right only to parties, societies, trade unions, and legitimate bodies. Therefore, what is the basis for the publication of the newspaper AL-USRAH AL- 'ARABIYAH, mouthpiece of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood? Yes, it is the mouthpiece of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood. Proof of this is that its editorial writer is Mustafa Mashhur, deputy leader of the Brotherhood and its official spokesman; and the rest of its writers are: Tawfiq al-Shawi, Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, Anwar al- Jundi, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, and Badr-al-Din Ghazi. These writers' approach about sowing the seeds of extremism is well known even though they say the contrary.

The following are samples of the "headlines" of the topics and articles published by the mouthpiece of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood in its 2 May issue:

The Beginning of Palestinian Treason: an article assailing the peace talks.

The Absence of Freedoms and a Dictatorial Regime; The Most Important Causes of Violence and Terrorism: An article defending terrorism and claiming that there is no freedom or democracy in Egypt.

How the Americans Infiltrated Education in Egypt: An interview with an imaginary personality who is supposedly an American researcher. The interview casts doubt on educational policy in Egypt and flagrantly calls on teachers and students to exercise terrorism.

The Legitimacy of Unity and Jihad: An article containing exposed forgery of shari'ah edicts and inciting terrorism.

These are just samples of the articles and accounts published in the latest edition of the newspaper. We are agreed that confronting terrorism is a collective responsibility and requires integrated coordination and unified effort. The parties are part of the structure which places them in the same trench. Therefore, it seems strange that this newspaper is published from within the Liberal Party, which is now trading its licenses. Even though it is entitled to do this, the party is not taking into consideration Egypt's public interests. This is the result. Gentlemen: All we want is to apply the law. It should be understood and clear that skirting the law is considered to be cheating, forgery, deception, and serious negligence which is punishable by law. The punishment applies to those who skirt the law as well as those who cover them up. We are waiting.

Police Captain Killed in al-Badari

NC1005150893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] An official security source announced the following: Today, 10 May 1993, as Captain Imam Khattab Imam, assistant intelligence chief of al-Badari, and a number of policemen were on patrol duty in al-Badari streets, Capt. Khattab saw two individuals who aroused his suspicions. One of them was Yasir Muhammad 'Atiyah Abu-al-'Ila, who is wanted by the police in connection with case No. 1646 of Asyut Criminal Court, concerning the assassination of Asyut Assistant Security Chief Major General Muhammad al-Shimi.

Capt. Imam tried to arrest the two individuals, but one of them fired at him and his escorting force. Capt. Imam was killed instantly. Two of his assistants as well as two passers-by were injured.

The police force managed to arrest Yasir Muhammad 'Atiyah, who was injured in the shoot-out. It transpired that 'Atiyah is the head of the terrorist group in al-Nuwayrah village, near al-Badari. A weapon used by the terrorist was seized.

Interior Ministry investigation teams led by the assistant minister and the Asyut security chief have gone to the scene of the incident. The State Security Prosecution Office has been notified. The police are still searching for Abu-al-'Ila.

Governor Says Situation 'Normal'

NC1105145893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Asyut, 11 May (MENA)—Asyut Governor Muhammad Samih al-Sa'id stressed that life is proceeding normally in the towns of al-Qusiyah and al-Badari. He said that no citizens have been randomly arrested and no curfew has been imposed on the two towns in the wake of the terrorist incidents that took place yesterday and the day before in which two police officers and a warrant officer were martyred.

Speaking at a meeting today with the popular and executive leaderships of the governorate, the governor said that the security forces have identified the terrorists who staged the two operations and they will be arrested very soon. He added that the empty bullet casings found in al-Qusiyah show that they were not made in Egypt but imported from abroad and this is proof of the involvement of foreign circles in the implementation of the two operations.

The governor called on Asyut's leaders to join the security forces in resisting extremism and arresting these terrorists.

Sudan

Further Reportage on Hala'ib Border Dispute

'Mobilization' Planned

NC1105071293 Paris AFP in English 0112 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, May 11 (AFP)—A senior Sudanese official declared Monday that the government was planning "mobilization" measures in its conflict with Egypt over the disputed territory of Hala'ib.

The SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) said Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state in the presidency, made the announcement at a meeting called by the Popular Organization for Defending the Faith and the Nation, a body created in 1986.

Al-Din did not indicate what form this mobilization would take.

But a member of the transitional national assembly, Majzub al-Khalifah, told the same meeting that the mobilization programme would involve the media, symposiums and mosques.

Al-Khalifah also said a "popular convoy" composed of trade unions and professional associations would go to Hala'ib, and that "popular defence centres" would be set up at trade union offices in the region.

Another Sudanese Government official, Brigadier Hasan Hamadayn, opined that the regime in Cairo was nearing its end, and said the present conflict provided an opportunity to reshape relations between Sudan and Egypt.

The chairman of the Popular Committees of Khartoum, Muhammad Khojali Salihayn, told the same meeting the committees were ready for a jihad (holy war) over Hala'ib.

The government meanwhile handed a protest note to the Egyptian ambassador, Hasan Jad-al-Haq, who was summoned to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Monday.

This was the second time in 10 days he had been summoned. The first time was to protest alleged Egyptian support for an opposition plan to overthrow the Islamic-backed junta in Khartoum.

According to SUNA, the note protested at a reported 48-hour ultimatum Egypt gave at the weekend if Sudan did not halt a police and administrative build-up in Hala'ib.

Conflict over Hala'ib, an area of 20,000 square kilometers along the Red Sea, resurfaced in 1991 when Sudan gave a Canadian oil company a permit to look for oil in the region.

An 1899 agreement between Egypt and Britain made the 22nd parallel the border between the two countries and gave Hala'ib to Egypt, but allowed Sudan to run the administration for the area's Sudanese population.

In another development, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council, spoke at Khashm al-Qirbah, in eastern Sudan, of "ill-intentioned media campaigns and conspiracies" against Sudan by some Arab countries he did not name.

SUNA reported him as saying this was because of Sudan's application of Islamic shari'ah law.

Sudan's conflict with Egypt has come to the fore while talks have been taking place in Abuja, Nigeria, between representatives of the junta and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

In Abuja, the SPLA, which has been fighting Islamic domination of southern Sudan since 1983, on Monday

denied a government accusation that it was trying with Egypt to undermine the talks, which have been dragging on since last month.

SPLA spokesman Nhial Deng Nhial said that "the Egyptian connection is unfounded" and that "we have no contact with Egypt here". He described the accusation as a "propaganda gimmick" aimed at blaming the SPLA and the Egyptian Government if the Abuja talks fail.

Readiness for Holy War

EA1105082093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state at the presidency of the Republic responsible for political affairs, has said that the struggle between Egypt and Sudan in the disputed Hala'ib border area poses a threat to security in the Red Sea and threatens the whole region with mass destruction. He said this yesterday when addressing the People's Association in Defense of the Creed and the Homeland at the premises of the Sudanese Trade Union Federation. Dr. Ghazi al-Din reviewed the latest developments in the Hala'ib issue and said Sudan would be taking mobilization measures in this regard.

The meeting was also addressed by Brigadier Hasan Hamadayn, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] Political Committee, who said that what was happening at present regarding Sudanese-Egyptian relations was an historic opportunity to build fresh relations between the two countries on new foundations.

Dr. Majdhub al-Khalifah, chairman of the TNA's mass sectors' committee, announced that the mobilization program would be launched in all sectors of society. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, chairman of the People's Committee for Salvation in Khartoum State. He confirmed that the people's committees were ready for holy war in defense of the homeland.

The meeting was also addressed by representatives of various bodies and trade unions who expressed their readiness for holy war defense of every inch of the homeland.

Egyptian Ambassador Summoned

EA1105084093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 10 May (SUNA)—Today the Foreign Ministry here summoned Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq, the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum, and officially informed him about Sudan's strong protest against the Egyptian Government's escalation of the situation between the two countries. The protest memorandum delivered to the Egyptian ambassador stressed Sudan's rejection of threats and the inflammatory and provocative policy. He was also informed about the rejection of all forms of interference in the internal affairs of Sudan.

No Need To Escalate Dispute

EA1005134093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0929 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 10 May (SUNA)—Musa Ya'qub, chief editor of Al-INQADH Al-WATANI wrote on the newspaper editorial of Monday [10 May] that there is a dispute in the border between Sudan and Egypt, but it is not necessary the situation is to escalate towards a no solution or military confrontation or interference in the other's affairs. [sentence as received] (?Sudan) has accused Egypt of this exclusively when [it] revealed the plot against Sudan, which had been supported by a foreign country.

The Egyptian accusations against Sudan comes prior to courts can disclose concerning this plot. [sentence as received] Within this context there are some Arab businessmen who have investment projects in Sudan and have relation of what is going on between Sudan and Egypt.

Concerning terrorism in Egypt, there are reports issued by three bodies specialised in this matter which conclude that terrorism in Egypt had its political, economical and social roots, and not all of it are of security reasons coming to Egypt from abroad, as has been claimed by the Egyptian officials. And by this it can be said that what goes on between Sudan and Egypt on Hala'ib border is an Egyptian escape from what is going on inside Egypt.

Further Reportage on Peace Negotiations in Abuja

Nigeria Moves To Prevent Stalemate

AB0805111093 Paris AFP in English 0603 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpts] Abuja, May 8 (AFP)—Nigerian Vice President Augustus Aikhomu will Saturday [8 May] urge Sudanese negotiators to avoid a stalemate as nearly two weeks of peace talks here have turned sour, conference sources said. The vice president of Nigeria, which is hosting and mediating the talks that began April 26, is concerned over signs that they may fail, the sources said.

At a brief meeting of all delegates Friday [7 May] the Sudanese Government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) identified a dozen points of contention.

Sudanese Government spokesman 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad said the two sides were disputing issues including foreign affairs, exchange control, national security and justice during a proposed interim period.

Before the session the SPLA delegation had denounced what it called Khartoum's "rigidity" over the issues of religion and decentralization. Khartoum's offers in the negotiating process were "inconsequential and practically valueless," the SPLA said, citing a proposal to remove the word "Islamic" from Sudan's official name. The SPLA asserts that its side has made more significant concessions such as agreeing that the northern provinces

can observe Islamic shari'ah law, while insisting that the central government follow secular law. [passage omitted]

The SPLA on Friday rejected a suggestion to move the Sudanese capital to Juba, the largest city in the south, to make the capital "more accessible to all Sudanese." SPLA spokesman Nhial Deng Nhial said such a move would merely "allow the north...to tell the southern Sudanese to pack their bags and move further down" south. The SPLA also complained of an "amazingly uncompromising and incomprehensible stand" regarding power-sharing during the interim period, particularly in the area of education.

Khartoum on Thursday [6 May] rejected a proposal by Nigerian mediators that the south have an independent judiciary during the transition as well as its own security force and freedom of religion, speech, residence and association.

A first Nigerian-mediated round of talks ended in failure last June.

Aikhomu's Meeting Postponed

AB0805114693 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The meeting of the Nigerian vice president, Augustus Aikhomu, with the Sudanese delegates at the Abuja peace talks on Sudan scheduled to take place today has been postponed until next week. A correspondent in Abuja reports that no reason was given for the postponement.

The conference had come to a halt yesterday after the technical committee set up by the conference submitted its report on the devolution of powers in the Sudan to the plenary session. The two parties were said to have disagreed on substantial issues bordering on foreign affairs, exchange control, national security, and the judiciary during the proposed interim period.

'Breakthrough' on Religion Issue

EA0805195393 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 8 May (SUNA)—The Sudan Government's delegation to peace talks and Garang's faction resumed Saturday [8 May] discussions on the agenda of the talks. The discussions focussed on the centre and states' authorities, security arrangements during the transitional period and educational planning in southern Sudan.

SUNA said that a breakthrough has been achieved on the issue of the relationship between the religion and the state. Garang's faction agreed on the application of shari'ah in the north and to apply another law in the South. The discussion is going on regarding the situation of the national capital, which Garang's faction said did not mean the geographical location only, but [also] the situation and legislative jurisdiction of the administrative centre.

Observers viewed that the issue of the relation between the religion and the state, which has been complicated at first, now is approaching its maturity stage.

SUNA correspondent said that the morning session due to be addressed by the Nigerian deputy president was postponed for the resumption of the sideline talks.

Appeal on Religion Issue

AB1005174593 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The vice president, Admiral Augustus Aikhomu, has appealed to delegates to the Sudanese peace conference in Abuja not to allow the sensitive issue of religion to disrupt the peace conference. Addressing the delegates today, Admiral Aikhomu regretted that some countries had allowed the issue of religion to bedevil their polities. He remarked that Christianity, Islam, and African religion preach the same doctrine of love and peace. The vice president said that they should not allow religion to stand in the way of solving the massive political and developmental problems confronting their country. He stated that the suffering being unleashed on both Christians and Muslims and the hunger caused by the war could not be morally justified on the basis of religion. Earlier, the leader of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement], Commander Silva [name indistinct], stated that some areas of conflict have been resolved, except that of state religion.

Reportage on Government, Rebel Talks in Nairobi

Rebels Split, Kongor Situation

EA0905194093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] A group of the members of the rebel movement which had earlier split off from the movement to form other factions recently announced during a press conference in Nairobi their intention of forming a new faction with no connection with the united faction or that of John Garang. The new faction includes rebels Alfred Ladu- Gore, Professor Barri Wanji, Dr. Phillip, Ibiton George, and others.

As regards developments arising from splits in the rebel movement, reports indicate that over 2,000 citizens in the Kongor and Ayod areas were killed as the result of fighting between two factions there. The pro-Garang forces committed the murders after being driven out of the town of Ayod by forces of the other faction which Garang's faction had been controlling.

Western media sources have condemned Garang's faction, while reporting an escalation of the fighting among the rebel factions, which has led to a suspension of UN aid operations in Kongor since 5 May. The reports state

that some people were [word indistinct] to death and their bodies [word indistinct], while women and children were burnt to death in huts by the rebels in the context of outbreaks of tribal fighting amongst themselves.

Meanwhile, Kenyan media sources have reported that a North African state has brought weapons to be distributed to the rebels five days ago. That state is trying to sabotage the Sudanese Government's earnest efforts to bring about peace. The sources say that this state had promised to arm Garang's faction in return for its refusing to sign a peace agreement in Abuja.

Government Meets With Lam Akol Group

AB1005211693 Paris AFP in English 2000 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpts] Nairobi, April 10 (AFP)—Sudan's Government opened peace talks with one of two warring rebel factions Monday in Nairobi, but negotiations with the rival group in Nigeria remained deadlocked.

Lam Akol, chief negotiator for the rebel faction that rejected the leadership of John Garang, founder of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), two years ago, called for peace and emergency aid for hundreds of thousands risking starvation in the war-devastated South.

"We should be ashamed when we see our people dying as skeletons on television screens," Lam told the government delegation.

He said Garang, whose followers are holding separate talks with the government in Nigeria's capital Abuja, had "never taken peace seriously." [passage omitted]

Lam said Garang, who accuses the dissident group of fighting for the government, had repeatedly rejected attempts to reunify the SPLA. [passage omitted]

Lam said the rival SPLA group led by Riak Machar recognised the North's right to keep Islamic shari'ah law, but wanted southerners to be given a chance to choose another system "by a democratic process."

Sources close to the Riak faction said it had asked the government to share power in the South and establish an interim administration until a referendum on independence or self-rule within Sudan could be organised.

It was unclear how far the government would go to meet the demand, though diplomatic sources said a compromise might be reached.

"To stop the war, the time has come for us to consult the southern people as to what sort of political and constitutional set-up will satisfy their aspirations," Lam said.

The chief government delegate, member of parliament Ahmed Ibrahim al-Tahir, said Khartoum was negotiating separately with the two SPLA factions because it wanted "a comprehensive peace." The rebel groups had failed to agree on three-sided talks, he said.

Talks To Resume 12 May

EA1105114593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The peace talks between the government delegation led by Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir and the united faction of the rebel movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-United] led by Dr. Lam Akol will resume in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on 12 May. The negotiations began yesterday when the opening session was addressed by Mr. Ibrahim al-Tahir. He reviewed the government's efforts to achieve peace in the country, and stressed that the government was serious about achieving overall peace.

Dr. Lam Akol spoke on behalf of the united faction. He confirmed the faction's seriousness in seeking to achieve peace. He said that their group had not entered the whirlpool of negotiations with the alliance of former parties [the northern-based parties outlawed after the 1989 coup].

Reports from Nairobi say that the government delegation presented an integrated proposal to solve the southern problem while the delegation of the united faction asked for time to enable it to study the government proposal in a scientific manner.

Meanwhile, peace negotiations continued yesterday between the government delegation and John Garang's faction in Abuja, Nigeria. Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, head of the government delegation, presented a report on the meeting of heads which contained points of agreement and disagreement. Mr. 'Ali al-Haj, the official spokesman of the government delegation, said that the southern problem did not arise over the issue of religion. He said it was the issues of unbalanced development that were behind the conflict.

Optimism About Talks Noted

EA1105120093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 93

['Abd al-Azim Awad commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the spotlight moved from the Nigerian capital, Abuja, to Nairobi, the capital of our neighbor, Kenya, to illuminate the proceedings of a separate round of peace talks. [passage omitted]

The Abuja talks are continuing for the second successive week without any positive signs appearing on the horizon due to the intransigence of rebel Garang's group and its obstinacy and insistence on falling unconsciously into the lap of agents, hirelings, and enemies of the homeland. We say this in spite of the fact that the opportunity to turn towards peace is still available to them, once they put the homeland's higher interests above everything else.

A quick glance at the file of the united faction, which is negotiating with the government in Nairobi, will reveal

the big difference between the two factions. The opening speech of the head of the delegation, Lam Akol, leads directly to an understanding of all the papers in the file, and reveals the difference between the two factions. Lam Akol began his speech by talking about his movement's seriousness about peace. He then moved directly to the core of the subject by saying: We have not entered the whirlpool of agreements with the alliance denominational parties, in contrast to Garang's group which has linked its programs and its movement with agreements with the alliance of denominational parties.

Later, the leader of the united faction said in amazement: What is so new in the stands of the parties concerned which has made Garang forge an alliance with them?

It is clear to observers that the Nairobi delegation has come to the negotiations with a clear vision about the cause of peace as a basic goal secure from any pressures, coercion or temptation. This makes us more optimistic than at any previous time. We must also take into account the seriousness of the Sudanese Government, its interest in achieving peace, and its determination to proceed along this difficult road in spite of its prior ability and superiority in the field. This is a matter well understood by the rebels.

It behoves the rebel Garang to understand the lesson before the opportunity is lost. He should also realize that he does not represent the sons of the south and has never done so. His army, defeated on all fronts, will end in destruction and will be scattered with more defeats; then he will not be protected by the weapons of the pharaoh [Egyptian President Mubarak] and his supporters from an inevitable destiny. The south will continue to be a dear part of the homeland through its loyal and honorable sons, under the banner of dignified, honored, and united Sudan, and the wrongdoers will know their fate.

States Urge EC, U.S. To Abandon Energy Tax Proposals

NC0905111393 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 9 (AFP) - United Arab Emirates (UAE) Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi urged the European Community and the United States to abandon proposals for imposing an energy tax, saying it would block talks for free trade between them. Al-Na'imi, whose country is current chairman of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), made the call on Saturday before flying to Brussels for Tuesday's talks with the E.C. on the tax.

"We appeal to the E.C. in particular and industrial states in general to revise their trend towards imposing energy taxes because the GCC does not believe in putting new barriers for free international trade," al-Na'imi said. "Our negotiations with the E.C., the U.S. and Japan are primarily aimed at reaching free trade agreements that will remove customs barriers and the imposition of the energy tax could obstruct that direction."

GCC states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the UAE—have argued that the proposed taxes would reverse a projected increase in oil demand and consequently hit their earnings, which come mainly from crude exports. The U.S. tax, which is expected to be enforced this year, will levy around 3.5 dollars on each imported barrel of oil while the E.C. carbon tax will add a further 10 dollars on a barrel by the year 2000.

According to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), the taxes could cost oil producers a cumulative 75 billion dollars and push down demand by three million barrels per day [bpd] by the year 2005. GCC states are expected to suffer most as they produce nearly one fifth of the world's oil output and sit on 40 percent of the world proven crude reserves. Independent studies estimate their losses at nearly 14 billion dollars a year from the taxes at a time when their budgets are already reeling under the pressure of low oil prices and two wars in the region.

Al-Na'imi, who will chair a meeting of GCC foreign ministers in Brussels before the crucial talks with the E.C., hinted the proposed taxes could affect aid by Gulf nations, which have provided nearly 90 billion dollars since 1970. "E.C. states should realise that the GCC is their active partner in the work to support stability and development in several parts of the world," he said. "GCC states also wish to find a balanced economic relationship with the E.C. based on mutual interests and E.C. contributions to joint projects and transfer of technology to the region."

The E.C. gets nearly 40 percent of GCC oil exports and is its biggest commercial partner. Their two-way trade stood at around 35 billion dollars in 1992. Japan and the U.S. import about five million bpd of GCC oil and their trade with the region stood at nearly 34 billion dollars and 22 billion dollars respectively in 1992.

Kuwait

'Sources' Say Second Group Planned To Attack Bush

PM1005192393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Ghunaym al-Mutayri report: "Afghan and Filipino Tried To Assassinate Bush in al-Ahmadi"]

[Text] Kuwait—Highly-placed Kuwaiti sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the terrorist network which had planned to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait and whose members were apprehended was not the first such network and not the first such attempt.

The sources said that members of another network that had plotted to assassinate the U.S. President during his visit to the oil installations in al-Ahmadi Governorate were also arrested.

They said that two men, one Afghan and one Filipino, who both worked for the oil company, were arrested. The Afghan, a driver, was driving an ambulance and was accompanied by the Filipino who was acting as a nurse. They tried to enter the area in al-Ahmadi where Bush was, pretending to be carrying a patient.

The sources added that a security checkpoint stopped them and questioned them as to why they were there, where they were headed, and why their vehicle was speeding excessively, sounding the siren and flashing the ambulance lights.

The Afghan driver replied that they were taking a seriously ill patient to the company's hospital, but the driver and his companion appeared confused. This prompted the security men to search the vehicle, where they found seven handgrenades ready for use.

The sources further stated that, under interrogation, the suspects confessed that they had planned to use the grenades in an attempt to assassinate the U.S. President and his American and Kuwaiti companions. They were referred to the state security authorities for further interrogation.

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT why that attempt and arrests had not been made public as the Interior Ministry had made public the news about the first network and the first attempt, the sources said that the initial interrogation of the suspects was not yet complete and that the Interior Ministry was still tracing those who had collaborated with the two suspects.

They said that Iraqi intelligence, which was behind the first attempt, may not have been behind this attempt, but it was certain that some other party was behind and supported the members of this network, because the United States has more than one enemy in the region apart from the Iraqi regime.

The sources noted that as a result of the possibility that a party other than the Iraqi regime was behind the terrorist organization, the Kuwaiti authorities have not made the incident public. All investigations confirm that there was another party and that there was no link between the first and second networks. The sources added that Iraqi intelligence may have financed the second network after learning of the failure of the first, which was exposed one day before Bush left Kuwait.

Al-Ahmadi is about 70km south of Kuwait City and has the most and biggest oilfields and oil refineries and has a petrochemical complex.

Further on Charges Against Assassination Plotters

LD1005132393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 May (KUNA)—Public Prosecutor Muhammad al-Bannay confirmed today in a few days time the prosecution will refer the accused in the conspiracy to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his recent visit to Kuwait to the State Security Court. [passage omitted]

The public prosecution has charged them with communicating with the Iraqi authorities in order to harm the security and safety of the State of Kuwait, importing explosives and weapons into Kuwait in order to spread terror and subversion and to carry out an attack on the life of former U.S. President George Bush, who was visiting Kuwait at the invitation of his highness the amir.

Al-Bannay said in a statement—a copy of which was received by KUNA—that the prosecution has finished questioning all the accused who are under arrest. He pointed out that all the facts concerning this case will be published as soon as the State Security Court prosecution has finished its investigations. He stressed that the public prosecution has never in the past released any information or statements concerning this case because of its concern to serve the interest of the investigation.

Official Says Central Bank Holds No Iraqi Currency

LD1105101193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0658 GMT 11 May 93

[Excerpt] Central Kuwait, 11 May (KUNA)—In a press interview published here today Shaykh Salim Abd al-Aziz al-Sabah, governor of the Central Bank, stresses that the bank does not hold any Iraqi banknotes, pointing out that the Central Bank notified all currency exchange companies to stop dealing in these banknotes several months ago.

In his interview with AL-QABAS, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah added that the entry of Iraqi banknotes to Kuwait was banned through coordination with the customs authorities. [passage omitted]

Egyptian President Mubarak Arrives on 2-Day Visit

LD1005114793 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpt] At 1215 today His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the president of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait on a two-day visit. Heading those who had gone to the airport to welcome him were his highness the emir of the country and his highness the heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Addresses Egyptian Community

NC1005192693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 10 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met this evening with members of the Egyptian community in Kuwait. During his open and frank dialogue with them, the president dealt with a number of domestic issues, including the economic reform program, terrorism, foreign financing of terrorism, the problems of investment companies, and the sale of the public sector.

Answering a question by one of the community members, Mubarak noted that the Islamic groups began operating in Egypt in the seventies and were supported in order to resist communism. There is no doubt that this was a mistake. This classification should not have been made, as we are all citizens of Egypt. He added that these groups have exploited and seriously harmed Islam. I fear that the name of Islam will be attached to terrorism because of them.

Mubarak mentioned the efforts being made by al-Azhar and all the state institutions to enlighten Muslims. He emphasized that ideas should be confronted with ideas and corrected. But what is happening now is that the (?wrong) ideology is being promoted by a small group that has resorted to terrorism in the name of religion. A group of terrorists implicated in the assassination of President al-Sadat were released from prison because their guilt could not be proven. They traveled to Afghanistan and were exploited and worked for a foreign country. These are weak and unpatriotic people. Their values have nothing to do with Islam, and they are committing actions unacceptable to Islam. These people are being dealt with by the law, as they commit actions that terrorize the citizens, attack innocent people, undermine the state economy, and thus jeopardize the livelihood of the Egyptians.

Mubarak said that an economic recession means increased unemployment and a blow to the economic reform process. He noted that there are countries that claim to be Islamic that believe they can harm Egypt, referring to [words indistinct] from Iran and published by their newspapers about overt support for terrorism.

The president stressed that Egypt of al-Azhar does not learn Islam from the Khomeynists and that, with its al-Azhar Mosque, Egypt will remain a source of light for true Islam and will remain the trustee of its message.

Referring to the relationships and circles that link the terrorist groups in the region's countries, the president stressed that Egypt deals with the issues of terrorism in accordance with the law and refers terrorists to the judiciary, stressing that the latter in Egypt is fair and that no one interferes in the affairs of either the military or civilian judiciary.

Mubarak emphasized that the law in Egypt is sovereign, adding: We will not be remiss in hitting terrorism until it is uprooted. This is a national responsibility for the sake of Egypt's people and their future and for the sake of the stability and security of the entire Arab nation, which is the responsibility of every Egyptian and Arab.

Regarding the policy of economic reform in Egypt, the president stressed the importance of investment and development as being the fundamental issue in Egypt in order to provide productive job opportunities for Egypt's sons, who are increasing at an alarming rate which will be difficult to tackle in the future if the increases continue at the same rate.

Mubarak said that the people must be aware of these facts because they are creating the future with their own hands and hence must be alert to and aware of these facts. He drew attention to the need for family planning to limit the population growth, which is affecting the future of development in Egypt. [passage indistinct]

Further on Mubarak Remarks

NC1005212093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpts] During his meeting with the members of the Egyptian community in Kuwait today, President Husni Mubarak said that terrorism has seriously harmed Islam. He noted the efforts being made by al-Azhar and all the state institutions to enlighten Muslims. [passage omitted]

Mubarak noted that there are states that claim to promote Islam, thinking they can harm Egypt. The president accused Iran's radio and press of openly supporting terrorism. He emphasized that Egypt of al-Azhar does not learn Islam from the Khomeynists and that with al-Azhar Egypt will remain a source of light for true Islam. [passage omitted]

Mubarak explained the crises facing the world, led by unemployment. He affirmed that Egypt is doing its utmost to provide an acceptable level of dignified life for its people.

Answering a question about raising the retirement age, Mubarak explained that it will be upheld to give the opportunity to those awaiting their chance to assume positions of leadership and action.

Regarding the investment companies and dealing with issues of embezzlement of public funds, Mubarak affirmed that there will be no covering up of corruption or leniency regarding public funds.

Members of the Egyptian community in Kuwait praised Mubarak's efforts to promote the process of development in Egypt, dealing with terrorism, and supporting the peace process. They called on Mubarak to assume the responsibility and leadership in Egypt for a third term to maintain the process of development and democracy amid new domestic and foreign challenges. Mubarak said that the responsibility is great and the only compensation is the knowledge that it is for the sake of Egypt. I pray God to guide me in making the decision.

Regarding the relationship of Egyptians abroad with their motherland, Mubarak explained that the Egyptian embassies and the Foreign Ministry are fulfilling this role. The embassies abroad are the home of all Egyptians.

Regarding the sale of the public sector, Mubarak affirmed that there are huge industrial establishments in Egypt that cannot be sold because they are the basis of the Egyptian economy and strategic production. A solution will be found for other companies.

Regarding the problem of Hala'ib, the president affirmed that Egypt will not be flexible regarding its territory. He explained the problem in detail, saying that it is an old problem, which the Sudanese regime revives whenever it faces crises at home. He noted that Egypt imposed order in Hala'ib and Shalatin when the Sudanese Government attempted to grant Sudanese identity cards to the Egyptians there. The Egyptian forces there were beefed up to impose order, not war. Mubarak said we allow freedom of movement to the people in Hala'ib. He reiterated that Egypt has no problem in Hala'ib, as it is Egyptian territory. The Egyptians and the Sudanese are brothers in Cairo and anywhere up to the northern coast. The propaganda war launched by al-Bashir's radio will fail. The president also affirmed that the Sudanese regime attacks Egypt because of the presence of the Sudanese opposition in it, and said that Egypt has been open for the Sudanese throughout history. Egypt will not extradite anyone, because it respects the law. Egypt is the homeland of all Sudanese.

Regarding the Serbian attacks on Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mubarak said Egypt has exerted efforts in all international organizations on behalf of Bosnian Muslims. He said that he explained to a number of leaders in Europe and America that a solution must be found for this crisis so that the Islamic world can feel that there is justice. He noted that Egypt has peacekeeping forces in Bosnia as part of the UN forces there.

Mubarak on Regional Stability, Iran

NC1105091393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 11 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that unity between nations and peoples is the most powerful weapon against regional ambitions.

During his meeting with Kuwaiti newspaper chief editors, Mubarak stressed the importance of exchanging views on confronting the challenges and dangers facing the region so that our stands will be consistent. He said any threat to Egypt's stability is a threat to the Gulf region's stability.

He added that Iran thinks it can destabilize Egypt and the region, and that Egypt and all the region's nations are wary of this threat. This is what I have sensed during my talks and contacts in the Gulf, he remarked.

Mubarak asked what kind of Islam is this which Iran seeks to propagate, while Egypt is home to al-Azhar, the pulpit of true Islam. He said any aggression against another country is extremism and that the aggression against Kuwait was a type of extremism. He stressed the importance of the Kuwaiti people's unity and cohesion, and said that blocking the efforts of those who seek to break the Arab countries' unity is important, noting the Arab peoples' vigilance and awareness.

President Mubarak asserted his eagerness for Arab action to unite and become consistent, and the importance of preserving the Gulf Cooperation Council member-states' strength and cohesion. He affirmed that Egypt is committed to democracy because a strong democracy is armed with the rule of law.

Mubarak Departs After 'Cordial' Visit

LD1105113093 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 May 93

[Excerpts] At noon today, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him left Kuwait International Airport after a two-day official visit to the country. [passage omitted]

At 1100 this morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak visited the amir at Bayan Palace where official talks were held. Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of Emiri Court Affairs, said that the talks focused on the development of events in the Gulf, Arab, and international arenas. The talks also dealt with bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, issues which concern the interests of the two fraternal peoples, and the means of developing them in various fields.

A cordial atmosphere characterized by understanding and a spirit of brotherhood prevailed.

Spain To Buy Mirage F1 Aircraft From Kuwait

LD1005121493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0932 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 10 May (KUNA)—A responsible senior military source announced that a Spanish military delegation has been negotiating the purchase of Mirage F1 aircraft belonging to the Kuwait Air Force.

The source, Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, told KUNA that Kuwait has received an offer from Spain to purchase 14 Mirage F1s. A Spanish military delegation arrived recently especially to negotiate to buy the planes. He noted that the Kuwaiti Mirage aircraft are sound and they have been regularly maintained. He affirmed that selling the aircraft is within the framework of the Kuwaiti Army's efforts to update its various weapons.

Kuwait has allocated $3.5 billion to be spent in the coming 12 years on purchasing military equipment and modernizing its military capabilities which are at disposal during the next 10 years.

It is worth recalling that 85 percent of Kuwait's military equipment and installations were stolen or destroyed during Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

Recently, Kuwait recovered some of the aircraft and military hardware which had been looted by Iraq but they have been returned in an unserviceable condition.

Major General al-Mu'min said Kuwait has received the first delivery of U.S. F18 fighter aircraft which Kuwait had contracted to buy; they arrived in January and they were three out of 40 planes which will be delivered in succession.

Major General al-Mu'min denied that Kuwait is going to abandon the purchase of Patriot antimissile missiles. He said: "We are going ahead with supplying the Kuwaiti Army with this weapon which proved to be very effective in downing the Iraqi Scud missiles during the Kuwaiti war of liberation."

On the other hand Major General al-Mu'min said that the rebuilding of the al-Salim and Ahmad al-Jabir airbases project is almost complete and they will be commissioned next month.

Saudi Arabia

Human Rights Group To Fight 'Oppression,' 'Injustice'

NC0705190393 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 7 (AFP)—Six Saudi scholars, in a rare critical move against the authorities in Saudi Arabia, have

announced the creation of a human rights commission to fight what they call oppression and injustice.

The group calls itself the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights and includes a university professor as well as a lawyer, according to a statement received Friday [7 May] by AFP.

It called for cooperation with Saudi "officials... and every person who seeks to eliminate injustice and support the oppressed" but it avoided any direct mention of the Saudi authorities.

Quoting from the Koran and underlining strict adherence to shari'ah, or Islamic law, the six pledged to "contribute in whatever that may help eliminate injustice, support the oppressed and defends the rights prescribed by shari'ah."

They urged the Saudi people to inform the new commission on all incidents of oppression and injustice in Saudi Arabia.

Two members of the committee, 'Abdallah Bin-Sulayman al-Masari and 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jabrin, were signatories to a critical political document addressed to King Fahd in July 1992 by 107 Saudi religious figures.

The document, entitled Al-Islah (advice), called for a separation between political and legal bodies in Saudi Arabia, the abolition of "torture and travel bans" as well as a review of laws to ensure they conform with shari'ah.

Saudi Arabia, which is home to Islam's holiest shrines, does not have a written constitution. The king rules in accordance with shari'ah.

Islamic critics of the government have been making their voices heard since the Gulf war, when Saudi Arabia accepted the deployment of hundreds of thousands of Western troops on its territory.

Leaders Informed of King's 'Dissatisfaction'

NC0905142793 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 9 May 93

[Excerpt] Nicosia, May 9 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has voiced its anger over the creation by Saudi scholars of a human rights group to fight what they said was oppression and injustice, a London-based association said Sunday.

Liberty, an independent group which specialises in the defence and promotion of human rights and democratic reforms in Muslim countries, said the leaders of the Saudi group were summoned Saturday by the Riyadh governor.

Prince Salman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, reportedly acting on orders from his brother King Fahd, expressed his "dissatisfaction and astonishment" over the creation of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights.

The group, which includes a university professor as well as a lawyer, was told of the "anger" of the royal family.

"He (Prince Salman) argued that by doing what they have done, they violated the norms and offended the political and religious establishments in the kingdom," Liberty said in a statement received by AFP in Nicosia.

Prince Salman dismissed the group's assertions that their action was in line with Islamic principles and said he would call on the country's religious authorities to "condemn" them.

In its first statement on Friday, the committee called for cooperation with Saudi officials and "every person who seeks to eliminate injustice and support the oppressed."

The statement, also released by Liberty, said one of its objectives was to seek the release of political prisoners detained in Saudi Arabia.

On Sunday, Liberty said the group was set up "after the failure of all attempts to convince the Saudi authorities to release a number of detainees who have been held without trial and without clear reasons."

Formation of the group was accelerated following the arrest of Shaykh Ibrahim al-Dibyan, a senior religious figure from the western region of al-Qasim, who was allegedly detained after criticising a visit former U.S. President George Bush made to Kuwait in April.

Liberty also cited the case of two men, Fahd al-Zayid and Majid al-Rashid, who have been detained for two months "simply because their wives organised private Koranic study circles."

Islamic critics of the government have been making their voices heard since the Gulf War, when Saudi Arabia accepted the deployment of hundreds of thousands of Western troops on its territory. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Reform Grouping Set To Remain in Opposition

PM0705134893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 May 93 pp1, 4

[Reports by Lutfi Shatarah in Aden and 'Abdallah Hammudah and Hammud Munsir in Sanaa: "The Reform Grouping Heading for Opposition in Yemen"]

[Excerpts] The consultations and bargaining among the three main parties in Yemen yesterday entered a phase of secrecy to prevent differences from coming out in the open which would mean complications. Informed sources have confirmed that the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] is inclined to remain in opposition and has so far refused to sign the proposed political charter. Meanwhile, a corruption scandal in the 14 Uctubar Establishment yesterday threatened the survival of the [14 UCTUBAR] newspaper. [passage omitted]

Partisan sources expect the next cabinet to be formed by the General People's Congress [GPC], the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and some other parties. According to some reports, the YRG, led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, intends to remain in the opposition if it does not get what would give it effective participation in the coalition government. The sources believe that the GPC and the YSP will implement the initial agreement reached between them regarding formation of a parliamentary bloc from which the cabinet would emerge, and that YRG participation YRG would be conditional on its acceptance and signing of that charter. [passage omitted]

Yemeni Information Minister Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum [name as published] has issued an order dismissing 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sha'if, chairman of the board of directors of the 14 Uctubar Establishment and member of the YSP Central Committee, two weeks after the start of the strike staged by the employees of the establishment and the newspaper 14 UCTUBAR, the only government newspaper in Aden, because of administrative and financial corruption in the establishment as a result of which the employees did not get paid for three months.

The newspaper's employees have rejected that order and said that it should also include all the paper's officials including the deputy chief editor and the editorial director, who are also YSP members. [passage omitted]

Presidential Council's 'Abd-al-Ghani Discusses Elections

PM1005111593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 May 93 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress, by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Hammud Munasir in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Could you please shed some light on the next phase and the new system that is beginning to take shape?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The elections were an important event after the achievement of unity and a confirmation of political and partisan plurality. The results are now known. The main tasks of the next phase lie in shifting from shared power (in the transitional period) to a permanent state of constitutional legitimacy. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Speculation about the next prime minister tips 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani or Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas for the post, the latter to complete the task he started. What do you think of that?

['Abd-al-Ghani] My name is not proposed, but it is up to the Presidential Council and the structure of the new House of Representatives.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why is your name not proposed?

(He laughs and declines to answer.)

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will the current circumstances require extending the tenure of al-'Attas' present government for a while until the new conditions take shape?

['Abd-al-Ghani] That is possible. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Despite all its positive aspects, the election battle showed some failure as it was the first experiment of its kind. What is your assessment so far?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Our assessment is that it was perfect. According to the reports we received from the international observers, there were no shortcomings in Yemen that do not exist in other advanced states. The reports said all the necessary guarantees were provided to ensure the honesty of the process. Every candidate had a representative at every box and he stayed there until the end of the vote counting. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Although the General People's Congress [GPC] won more seats in the House of Representatives than any other party, its victory was not on the scale that had been expected.

['Abd-al-Ghani] We would have liked to win more seats, and so would the other parties; but we sought the people's verdict and we will adhere by the people's decision.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What role can the opposition play in the next phase?

['Abd-al-Ghani] That is up to the opposition. This will be an experiment we can say we are proud of in advance. There will be two or more parties in the government and there will be an opposition. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will the GPC remain the president's party and will the president remain its secretary general or, after the new changes, will he be the party's leader but not necessarily its secretary general?

['Abd-al-Ghani] He is the party's secretary general and, at the same time, he is the president of all Yemenis. That is the case in many states where the president is the leader or secretary general of a particular party and also president of all the people. There is no contradiction there.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why are you not interested in the prime minister's post, highly respected as you are? Is that because of the existence of difficulties and tension and you want someone else to be burned by the fire?

['Abd-al-Ghani] It is an honor for me to serve this country in any position, but there are many people and that position is not restricted to one or two people. There are many people in Yemen capable of shouldering that responsibility. It would be better to give someone else a

chance. Yemen is not impotent. I have done a part of my duty in the posts I have occupied and I would serve my country in any post, but not in the post of prime minister because there are qualified people who can do the job.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Some people wonder about the need to give al-'Attas the opportunity to complete the task.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Why not? That issue is before the Presidential Council, and there are other qualified people. [passage omitted]

Socialist Party's al-Bid Interviewed on Elections

PM1005115493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 93 p 7

[Interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by unidentified correspondent in Sanaa "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] Are you satisfied with the election results? Do you not believe there were negative aspects?

[Al-Bid] Before answering that question I would like to thank AL-HAYAH for following developments in Yemen. I believe that the second big step took place during your stay. Unity was the first step in our contemporary history. And I believe that the step on the road of democracy is the second in this connection. With regard to the election results, we are generally very happy because we were able, praise be to God, to hold the elections on the set date, 27 April—which we consider a gain for us all, regardless of the [representation] ratio or status of any party. This is because status is judged by effectiveness, not by anything else. On the whole, we are satisfied.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you visualize the future of the relationship with the other parties, specifically the [General] People's Congress [GPC]?

[Al-Bid] We are interested in the relationship with all the parties. We have always said that we need coalition action, especially in the conditions we are experiencing now, in order to safeguard the experiment. This is why we extend our hand to all parties. But we have a special relationship with the GPC, because we have a responsibility, whether at the level of establishing unity or the level of looking after democracy. At another level, we of the Socialist Party yearn to work for creating a historic bloc. Because we believe that the present experiment in our country requires the presence of such a bloc. We believe that we, the Congress, and other forces are in a position which qualifies us to form such a bloc.

[AL-HAYAH] What are these forces?

[Al-Bid] We believe that the GPC is one of the main forces which can form such a historic bloc if we think about the common denominators which unite us through our programs, work, and the experiment we have entered together; and also through our view of the future. I call for the formation of such a historic bloc in order to take care of this experiment. However, I cannot define it beforehand. Let us list the bloc's tasks and then form it. This is because I believe that existing blocs in Yemen are not stable. In my view, there will be a move. Let us leave matters for the future when the new council assumes its tasks and responsibilities.

[AL-HAYAH] And what about the relationship with the Reform Grouping?

[Al-Bid] The relationship with the Reform Grouping actually exists. We exist and we should deal with one another and see how to find common denominators in present conditions. I believe that, if we adopt the logic that politics is the art of the possible, we will be able to find common denominators now and to work for them. We have actually begun a dialogue, and a meeting took place between me, the president ('Ali 'Abdallah Salih), and (Shaykh) 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar the day before yesterday (Sunday). It was a preliminary discussion about how we can work together in the stage ahead. Because the congress exists, the Reform Grouping exists, and the Socialist party exists, and we should deal with the reality.

[AL-HAYAH] Could that lead to the formation of a coalition government in which the three parties are represented?

[Al-Bid] By God, that is what we want. If we succeed in finding common denominators between our programs from which we can proceed to draw up the next government's program, I do not believe there is anything to prevent the formation of a coalition government between the congress, the party, and the Reform Grouping. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Do you not believe that the fact that the Socialist Party has won most of the seats in the southern and eastern governorates but failed to achieve a significant victory outside these governorates means to a large extent that the partition mentality still exists?

[Al-Bid] No. I do not believe that is a cause for concern. Because what happened reflected the loyalty of the masses in the southern and eastern governments to the Socialist Party. The masses passed their historic verdict, namely that when this party was in power for 25 years it did not torture or oppress them. They have had their say—a say of which we are proud. However, we believe we now have a duty, namely that we should be present on the national scene as a whole. The Socialist Party is required to be active on the Yemeni scene as a whole and to be present where it should be present. We have a group of constituencies in the northern and western governorates, and the party is working to ensure its presence everywhere in order to express the people's will and wishes. We will assess this experiment soon and will convene the Central Committee to assess what happened during the elections; and we will publish our assessment. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Will there be a unified position on the question of the relationship with the GPC?

[Al-Bid] There will be a unified position on all issues. We discussed that issue and many rumors emerged to distort the reality.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the truth about these rumors?

[Al-Bid] There are two opinions; both are sincere. There is one opinion which believes that we and the GPC are partners in a historic action, and that we should safeguard this action. Thus more advanced relations should be established with the GPC, because we carry with us two mechanisms for two past systems. And the period so far has not been sufficient for a complete merger. Therefore, and in order for us and the GPC to avoid difficulties, we believe that, if a joint program is reached between us, there is nothing to prevent a rapprochement and progress in relations leading to unification of the party and the congress.

With regard to the programs, a great deal is being said. But if a serious position is adopted, we will be able to develop our relations in the future. There is an opinion which calls for immediate action and another which says that, in order to ensure the success of this action, certain steps must be gone through to guarantee the success of the relationship. So the unification principle is agreed inside the party, but as to how and when, there are two opinions.

[AL-HAYAH] And which one do you support?

[Al-Bid] My responsibility as the party's secretary general is to look after the situation in order to secure a unified opinion. However, I believe that the two opinions in the party's leadership stem from a sincere view aspiring to a stronger relationship with the congress. I deal with the two opinions from my position, because my responsibility is to unite people. I am the last one to state his opinion in this connection, unless I see that the party's and the homeland's interests require me to state opinion, as I did with regard to unity. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] What is the reason for the change in the relationship between you and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih... from estrangement at one point to an abundance of accord which we have noted since your return from Aden recently? What actually happened?

[Al-Bid] Responsibility, our sense of responsibility, and fear for our homeland and what we had achieved together. At one point there were difficulties about which we spoke to you in Aden (last September). We believed that one should take time to examine and deal with matters responsibly and calmly. I believe that that was our duty. And I say that we should always think in a civilized way in order to express our opinion. We have now extricated ourselves peacefully from these problems. We have not been dragged into what the enemies of Yemen, unity, and democracy wanted to drag us into. We have been able to stand firm, handle our affairs, and search for a solution. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Does that mean that you might not run for vice president?

[Al-Bid] Not necessarily. I believe that what I have contributed is sufficient. I was concerned, during the period between unity and democracy. But, thank God, despite all the difficulties, we have begun this step, and I am confident that the wheel will turn and people who are more capable than us will emerge from among the people. I personally am satisfied with what has been achieved. But there is a par ty which has its leadership and orientations, and I am confident that it can operate with or without me. Yemen too can move with or without us. At the beginning people pinned the responsibility on 'Ali and myself ('Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali al-Bid). But there is now an elected House of Representatives to which we refer. It shoulders the responsibility for building the state and completing all future measures. We will all cooperate for the sake of serving our country. It is enough for us that Yemen is proceeding step by step, even though they are small steps. Because what is important is progress.

Borders With Outside World Reopened Midnight 10 May

JN1105082493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA)—Iraqi borders with the outside world reopened at midnight last night at the end of the deadline set by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] to withdraw from circulation the 25-dinar banknote, known as the Swiss version and carrying the letters "Kha 'Ayn".

A Border Police Command official spokesman told INA the competent authorities have taken the appropriate measures to facilitate transit through border posts after an uninterrupted six-day closure.

The border closure went smoothly and achieved its purpose—barring the rentry of the revoked banknote that had been smuggled abroad.

The RCC ordered the borders sealed as of 0800 last Wednesday to promote the implementation of the decision to recall the foreign version of the 25-dinar note.

The past six days saw a rush by the public to exchange the banknote at the Central Bank and al-Radidayn and al-Rashid banks.

The move was made following the slide in the Iraqi dinar exchange rate brought about by speculators on the black market, which was run by elements and quarters known to be hostile to Iraq.

Border Traffic Crossing 'Normally'

JN1105091693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0843 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Tirbil, 520 km west of Baghdad, 11 May (INA)—Competent authorities began processing transit papers at the border points from the first minute after midnight last night.

On the line to INA from the Tirbil border post with Jordan, an official source adds: The bulk of traffic had been processed as of 0600 today, following an uninterrupted six-day border closure as called for by a Revolution Command Council order barring the entry of the annulled Swiss version of the 25-dinar banknote carrying the letters "Kha 'Ayn".

Travelers are now transiting the borders normally, without a single car left outside the border complex in Tirbil. All the cars traveling to Jordan, he said, have now entered the customs compound. All the cars coming from Jordan have also had all their papers processed, the source noted.

Bankers Praise Decision To Annul 25-Dinar Banknote

JN1005145093 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 10, INA—At midnight local time, the deadline given by the Revolution Command Council (RCC) decision to withdraw from circulation the 25-dinar banknote (known as the Swiss Print) expires.

The RCC has authorized the Iraqi Central Bank as well as al- Rafidayn and al-Rashid Banks to exchange the cancelled banknotes, and blocked—by closing the Iraqi borders—any attempt to smuggle this banknote abroad.

Iraqi banking sources described the decision as coming at the right time, especially following the serious deterioration of the exchange rate of the Iraqi Dinar which directly affected its purchase value.

This decision has been made following a joint meeting for the RCC and cabinet chaired by President Saddam Husayn on May 2. The meeting has taken binding stringent measures that would eventually help raise the value of the Iraqi dinar.

Economists and bankers are unanimous that all these measures have positively affected the rate of exchanging the Iraqi dinar shortly after the decision was put into effect.

Governor of the Iraqi Central Bank Tareq al-Tumaji said the decision reflected the Iraqi leadership's wisdom in deterring the enemies' attempts to sabotage the national economy.

Saddam Said To Smuggle Gold to Jordan for Hard Currency

JN1005144293 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 2 May 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Amman—Jordanian and Iraqi businessmen have said that the president of the Iraqi regime is regularly smuggling the country's gold reserves into Jordan in exchange for hard currency because of the depletion of his monetary reserves.

Sources in Amman, who prefer to remain anonymous, yesterday said that in the past 10 days, Iraqi merchants visited Jordan to sell 270 kg of gold worth $3 million through private financial transactions.

The sources noted that Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi regime, is personally supervising the smuggling of gold into Jordan in small quantities to maintain its price and to avoid disturbing Jordanian authorities by smuggling large quantities all at once. This is especially important because smuggling gold into Jordan is illegal.

The sources added: The above-mentioned private financial transactions are made through commercial networks run by members of the Iraqi president's family who control economic life in the country.

The sources said that members of these networks enter Jordan regulary on official missions authorized by the presidential palace in Baghdad. In addition to being facilitative in general, such missions allow them to enter or leave the country with absolute freedom and without being searched.

Saddam Adviser Denies Military Purchase of Dollars

JN1005165793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] In light of rumors that the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] has bought dollars from local markets, causing a recent increase in its exchange rate against the Iraqi dinar, a correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency asked Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president, supervisor of industry and oil, chairman of the ministerial committee tasked with supervising the country's economic situation, and official in charge of the MIO, about the reasons for and objectives of these rumors and about their veracity. The official in charge of the MIO answered: For several months, the MIO has not bought any foreign currency, including dollars, from either local or foreign markets. These false allegations and groundless rumors show that those who promote them are not aware of the facts, that they are lacking in accuracy, and also that they have no self-confidence. These rumors seek to incite the public to tarnish the fine position occupied by the MIO and the bright image it has nurtured, thanks to its heroic mujahidin and its great accomplishments, beginning with the rehabilitation of gasoline, electricity, and communications facilities in the aftermath of the tyrannical 30-state aggression and ending with the provision of alternative materials and supplies, the completion of service projects, and its gigantic efforts in the reconstruction drive; not to mention its involvement in the implementation of gigantic irrigation projects to increase the area of cultivable land. Moreover, the MIO has contributed to breaking the unfair embargo imposed on the people of Iraq through the provision of reasonable quantities of food supplies and their distribution to cooperative societies and the Ministry of Trade at the expense of the production requirements of its factories.

Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan added: Those who promote these rumors are parties that bought dollars and aided speculation on the black market, which is a major party to the conspiracy aimed at sabotaging the Iraqi economy. This conspiracy was handled with a great deal of wisdom through the recent courageous decision by the leadership. This decision has dealt a fatal blow to those who are tampering with the Iraqi people's food supplies.

Foreign Ministry Announces Recognition of Eritrea

JN0705185793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 May 93

["Text" of Foreign Ministry statement issued in Baghdad on 7 May]

[Text] Out of its belief in the natural right of all nations to self-determination and to a free and dignified and sovereign life, the Republic of Iraq welcomes the outcome of the Eritrean referendum proclaimed on 27 April when the brother Eritrean people came out decisively in favor of an independent Eritrean state.

Based on the firm principles inspiring Iraq's foreign policy that champions the cause of the struggle of nations to attain liberation, dignity, cooperative and peaceful existence, and based on the principle of equality among independent nations—small or big—and away from coercion and exploitation and meddling in the internal affairs of other countries, and in keeping with the position of the Iraqi Government and people, who, over the years, consistently stood by the struggle of the Eritrean people materially and morally, the Iraqi Government declares its pleasure over the birth of the independent sovereign Eritrean state. It seizes this opportunity to express its sincerest wishes to the brother Eritrean people and their patriotic leadership, and announces that the Republic of Iraq is extending full recognition to the independent Eritrean state and expresses its wish to establish the closest ties with the Eritrean Government and brother Eritrean people.

RCC Decree Punishes Wheat, Barley Harvest Defaulters

JN0905100693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 May 93

["Text" of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 75, issued in Baghdad on 2 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Republic of Iraq. The Revolution Command Council [RCC]. Decree No. 75. Date of Decree: 11 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 2 May 1993 A.D.

Decree: In accordance with the provisions enshrined in Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed the following:

1. The ministers of interior and agriculture and irrigation as well as heads of administrative units and directors of agriculture and irrigation branches in the governorates shall be granted, in addition to the powers already vested in each of them, the powers to punish anyone who is over 15 days late in harvesting his wheat and barley crops on time as scheduled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation with a fine totaling half the prescribed value of the crops. The punishment decision is final. In case the fine is not paid within 30 days from the date the fine is imposed, violators shall be imprisoned for one month for each 1,000 dinars of the estimated cost of the crops.

2. This decree shall be published in the official gazette. The competent authorities shall see to its implementation.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

'Sharp Increases' in Prices of Basic Commodities Noted

JN0905101293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today held its ninth session in its first regular term under Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri.

During the session which hosted Bassam Kubbah, head of the Human Rights Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Riyad 'Aziz Hadi, chairman of the Human Rights Committee in Iraq, the assembly approved the introduction of a permanent National Assembly committee to be called the Human Rights Committee, to be added to its current committees. [passage omitted]

In a separate development, the Agricultural and Trade Affairs Committee as well as the Financial and Planning Committee of the National Assembly held a joint meeting today, during which they hosted Fa'iq Dhiban, under secretary at the Ministry of Trade, and several directors general at the Ministry.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed the sharp increases in the prices of basic commodities and food staples, their shortages in local markets, and the possible introduction of additional commodities into the ration card. They also discussed the role the Ministry of Trade could play to monitor markets as well as the low quality of some commodities and food supplies distributed according to ration cards, such as flour and rice. They also discussed the reasons for giving a time limit for selling imported commodities distributed to owners of [word indistinct] bakeries.

'Differences' Within Saddam's Family Cited

JN1005065393 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, SANA correspondent—Informed diplomatic sources in Amman have told AL-QABAS that differences within Saddam's family and his entourage have intensified.

Citing these sources, AL-QABAS says that these differences have exacerbated against the backdrop of talk about major ministerial and military changes Saddam intended to carry out last month.

The sources say that the disagreement also focuses on the role of the security organs, their reorganization, and on the reforms Saddam intends to carry out, and which he had disclosed to several of his senior aides.

The sources say that Barzan al-Tikriti is one of the staunchest supporters of these changes and that Taha Yasin Ramadan and Tariq 'Aziz support him in these changes, but without any change in faces.

Citing these sources, AL-QABAS says Saddam Husayn is more than ever at a loss to know what to do and that he gives his orders only through his son Qusayy. The sources mention that the cohesion of the family has started to deteriorate.

Taha Yasin Ramadan Visits Border Area With Kuwait

JN1105040693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan recently visited the border area with Kuwait, met with residents, and urged youths to wear Iraqi costumes. He also told them to focus on the dictator's portraits, saying that the area is in southern Iraq and that we should not give visitors a bad idea of the regime.

Regime Troops Attack Kurdish Town 9 May

NC1105054393 Paris AFP in English 2241 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpt] London, May 10 (AFP)—Several hundred Iraqi troops attacked the town of 'Uwaynah in the self-proclaimed Kurdish state in northern Iraq on Sunday, according to reports received by the Iraqi National Congress (INC) here Monday.

The attack was preceded by an artillery barrage using howitzers and mortars Saturday night, with shelling continuing until the Iraqi troops attacked the village on Sunday. Two Kurdish fighters were wounded, according to eyewitness reports from Western aid workers.

The aid workers reported that Iraqi troops had penetrated up to 10 kilometers (six miles) inside the UN-protected zone in the region of 'Uwaynah, 25 kilometers (15 miles) southwest of the Kurdish administrative centre Irbil, the INC said.

More than 200 civilians were evacuated from 'Uwaynah, but at least 2,000 remain at risk in nearby villages, the INC said.

The organisation said it had appealed to the United Nations to force the Baghdad regime to comply with UN resolutions and withdraw its troops from the 'Uwaynah area. [passage omitted]

Rabin Responds to 3 No-Confidence Motions

TA1005155593 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1426 GMT 10 May 93

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset—live]

[Excerpt] I listened to the first two no-confidence motions. I am pleased that this time they did not mention the security issue. It is now almost six weeks since the present government adopted a move that has proven itself. I am referring to the closure of the territories, which prevents free movement—which existed for many years—between Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and the sovereign State of Israel, which of course includes united Jerusalem. It has been shown that for almost six weeks following that move and the beefing up of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the territories, we have not had a single Israeli murdered inside Israel, and there has not been a single stabbing in the six weeks. An Israeli was murdered in Gaza, and there were two grave terrorist incidents in Gilo and Bilu junction—I will not deny that. I did not claim that we can totally prevent attacks inside sovereign Israel in a short period by one fell swoop. There is no doubt, however—and this might disturb several Knesset Members [MK's]—that the separation between the Palestinians in the territories and the sovereign State of Israel has made a significant contribution to the feeling of security, which has been strengthened among all Israelis inside sovereign Israel. I will add that the level of violence inside Judaea and Samaria has dropped. The ongoing war against the wanted men—that is, the terrorist hardcore—led to 81 fugitives being captured, giving themselves up, running away, or being killed during those six weeks. Now, there are less than 200 wanted men inside Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

The closure, however, also caused economic problems inside Israel and therefore we approved over 35,000 supervised entry permits for Palestinians working in Israel, not because we wanted it, but because the Israeli economy needs it—in fact it needs more—for agriculture, building, industry. At the same time, however, I see myself as prime minister responsible for the security of Israelis inside Judaea and Samaria and the wellbeing and security of Palestinians in the territories. The government therefore decided to allocate between 200 and 250 million shekels for development work inside Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in order to provide work for the Palestinians and in order to evacuate the inhabitants of the refugee camps to housing estates, to improve the physical infrastructure, and to permit the cleaning up of entire areas. We appeal to the entire world, the Arab world and the West, to allocate funds to strengthen the Palestinians' infrastructure in the territories, the physical infrastructure. It has been shown that a binational state is no solution. The solution is a Jewish state in which non-Jews live with full rights, all the rights a citizen of the State of Israel has.

We are therefore witnessing positive processes in the security field. I believe it also has positive political repercussions. I believe it will have a positive outcome bringing Israelis, Jews and non-Jews, back to work in Israel, and will strengthen the economic infrastructure of the Palestinians in the territories themselves. I know these are interim results and there can be various developments, but I have no doubt that this trend is correct and has proven itself in all fields. [in response to heckling from Likud MK 'Uzi Landau] I know, somebody here thinks he is talking for all the people. I would understand it if former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had been the one to talk. He at least led the Likud in several general elections. As far as I know, you have not yet done that. You can check among the people if the feeling of security has increased.

Now, to the political sphere. Up to now, only one government has returned Israel to the pre-1967 borders in return for peace. I do not mean it in a derogatory sense. I saying it with appreciation for the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who had the courage to break the Arab boycott on peace with Israel, and he did it with the largest Arab state. Did we not return to the pre-1967 borders? Did we not uproot settlements? We [Labor] have so far not done that. You [the Likud] have, therefore you should show a little modesty. You have not proven that peace can be achieved without giving everything back and without uprooting settlements.

In reference to the political negotiations: This government and I are loyal to what we promised in the election campaign. What did we say? You should hear the truth and not the untruths—I do not want to use sharper phrases—the Likud uses. We said—just read Labor's platform—we are in favor of a territorial compromise in return for peace on all fronts. What did we say? We said we are prepared for an IDF withdrawal on the Golan Heights to secure and recognized borders. We will not enter, and we have not entered, into a discussion on the depth of the withdrawal. What does Syria mean when it says full peace? Is it a peace treaty, which includes open borders for the movement of people and goods, diplomatic ties—including embassies—and normalization? Does the peace stand on its own two feet, and is it independent of what happens in the negotiations with other Arab partners? We will not enter into negotiations on the depth of the withdrawal. That is also true for our negotiating delegation. Nobody has been authorized to say anything else in the name of the Government of Israel to the United States or the Syrian delegation. I repeat, everything I have said is what has been said by the Israeli Government, the prime minister, and the negotiating delegation.

I do not want to enter the issue of who gave up all the territories in advance as a condition for peace. Regarding the Palestinian issue and the delegation for talks with the Palestinians, we have clearly said on the basis of our perception, that progress is to be made in two stages: A first stage calling for an interim arrangement on the basis of the formulations included in the

letter of invitation to the Madrid conference. We told the Palestinians that the distribution of authorities will be simple: You, the Palestinians in the territories, will receive most of the authorities of the Civil Administration which relate to your lives. The responsibility for the lives and security of the Israelis remains with Israel. The responsibility for overall security also remains Israel's. We did not invent the concept of a strong Palestinian police. There will be no Palestinian police in the territories before we reach and implement an agreement. There is no proposal for deploying them immediately, but if they want to prepare a nucleus in Jordan and Egypt this is their business. There will be no Palestinian police in the territories, however, before an agreement is reached and implemented.

We decided to seek ways to strengthen the Palestinian delegation; we returned old-time deportees. After the deportation of the 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] instigators, leaders, and activists, and the compromise I have made...[changes thought] Let me remind you that from November 1991, the date of the Madrid conference, to July 1992 there were murders, yet did the Likud government attempt to deport even one Palestinian? You postponed the trial until after the elections; you postponed this thing three times. We are still committed to the decision of the High Court of Justice regarding the appeals committees and the advisory committees. Fortunately none of the 101 deportees who were allowed to return actually returned. So far nobody appealed to the advisory committees. The appeals committees will probably complete their work soon, and we will see what will happen. However, we are faithful to the principles we undertook. We do not regard the autonomy or the Palestinian self-administration abstractly, but rather as linked to the lands and the fields they cultivate. There is no abstract autonomy, there is no territorial division. There is a problem of managing the land...[changes thought following heckling] So far we have not returned anything. You know very well who returned 80 percent of the territories conquered in the Six Days War. [passage omitted]

Government Survives No-Confidence Motions

TA1005182493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 May 93

[Report by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir in the Knesset]

[Text] The Knesset has just voted on the no-confidence motions. As expected, the government has not fallen. Fifty-six voted against, only 47 voted in favor of the no-confidence motions presented by the Likud, Tzomet, and the National Religious Party. The government therefore continues to exist. The six SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset Members were absent from the plenum during the vote.

The no-confidence motion by the United Torah Jewry faction, which concerned Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni's pronouncements, also failed to be passed by 56 votes to 47.

Meretz Accepts Rabin Proposal on Cabinet Reshuffle

TA1005201393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The Meretz Knesset faction and its leadership have decided to approve the settlement offered in the talks between the prime minister and Meretz ministers. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that under the arrangement, Shulamit Aloni will be communications and culture minister and will have responsibility for higher education, the Broadcasting Authority, Educational Television, and Channel 2. Amnon Rubinstein will be minister of education, Ya'ir Tzaban will be coopted to the ministerial committee on national security affairs, and Yosi Sarid will be join the ministerial committee on Shin Bet interrogations.

SHAS Rejects Rabin Offer; Cabinet To Convene

TA1105044193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] A hectic day of meetings and consultations is beginning for the parties involved in the coalition crisis after last night's meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] spiritual leader, at the latter's home yielded no results.

SHAS rejected the prime minister's offer and currently is demanding that the Education Ministry be taken away, not only from Shulamit Aloni, but also from her party. Coming out of the nocturnal meeting, Minister Der'i told our correspondent Gil Litman that Mr. Rabin brought no new offers.

The SHAS leadership will convene this morning to discuss the situation, and Rabbi 'Ovadya will present the SHAS stand to the Council of Torah Scholars this afternoon. The Labor ministers will convene this morning, and in the afternoon Mr. Rabin plans to hold a special cabinet session.

Knesset Member [MK] Eli Dayan, head of the Labor Knesset faction, has called on SHAS to accept the offer. Last night, he made it clear to the SHAS MK's that if they quit the coalition, the prime minister will not wait for them and will move quickly to find alternative partners. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Beilin Cited on Coalition Crisis, Peace Talks

TA0805104893

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0705 GMT on 8 May in its "weekly newsreel" program carries a live studio discussion between moderator Hayim Hecht and political correspondent Shlomo Raz

on the current coalition crisis and its possible ramifications for the peace process. Their discussion is interspersed with passages from a previously recorded interview between Shlomo Raz and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

When moderator Hecht asks correspondent Raz whether progress in the peace negotiations in Washington could be detrimentally affected by the coalition crisis caused by the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] threat to bolt the coalition unless Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni, from the Meretz party, resigned, Raz says that Prime Minister Rabin had himself linked the two issues. Raz, however, also notes that other senior Labor party officials, including Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin do not believe that the coalition crisis threatens the political process. Beilin: "This crisis does not threaten the peace process, nor represent any inherent possibility of a change of government. The question, of course, is how to get through this as smoothly as possible. Obviously, it does not make life easier for any of us; however, it cannot harm the peace process. The negotiations will continue next week and hopefully prove successful; and then, following a short break, we will resume continuous negotiations in Washington."

When asked by Raz, whether there is any reason to demand that Education Minister Aloni draw the appropriate "conclusions," Beilin explains that "clearly, even if we have a majority in the Knesset, we would like to see the widest possible coalition basically conforming to our ideological positions. In this regard, it would constitute a significant advantage if we were able to establish a coalition which included not only SHAS but also United Torah Jewry, and I think that every one of us must do everything they can to bring this about." Beilin acknowledges that he is well aware of the "objectionable nature" of the current coalition crisis, which pits freedom of expression against political exigencies, concluding that "it is now mainly up to Shulamit Aloni how to act on this." Beilin asserts that although the demands posed by SHAS are "unacceptable," politicians must accept "political realities" and the "peace process is the most important thing." Referring to Minister Aloni, Deputy Minister Beilin says that "there is no doubt that the real soul- searching must be done by her, and I hope she will make the right decision."

Moderator Hecht and political correspondent Raz move on to discuss the SHAS demand that Prime Minister Rabin hold a national referendum before implementing any serious concessions in the peace process, noting that the coalition agreement signed by the prime minister indeed includes such a clause. Raz says that Rabin is concerned that this coalition clause could be interpreted as giving the coalition partners a sort of veto power over the entire political process. Rabin has repeatedly claimed that he has a popular mandate to see the negotiations through to a successful conclusion.

Beilin surprisingly supported the idea of holding a national referendum, asserting that "as far as we are concerned, if we, as I fervently hope, really reach such a moment, it will be first and foremost in our own interest to propose holding a national referendum." Beilin believes that "if we can come to the people and say this is our decision: these are the concessions and these are the accomplishments, and we now want you to decide, then any decision by the Israeli people would be upheld, and if God forbid, the people decided that we were still not ready for peace, then we would have to forgo the agreement." Beilin says that, in his opinion, "this is very fair, and I will recommend that my colleagues initiate such a move and not wait until someone else demands it."

Raz then reports on last week's achievements in the negotiations in Washington. Beilin also comments on the progress made in the Washington talks. Beilin explains that "we have basically reached agreement with the Jordanians, noting that in his assessment, "we are also capable of reaching agreement with the Lebanese," with whom we have "no substantive differences." As for the Palestinians, Beilin believes that "not very much time will be required in order to reach agreement on the principles. The main problem, which remains a sticking point, is the link between the interim and permanent arrangements." Beilin says that "if we can find a formula to resolve this issue we can overcome differences and agree on a joint statement of principles." As for the Syrians, Beilin says: "I do not see a great gap" between Israel's and Syria's positions, noting that he does not believe that we "should compete among ourselves regarding the extent of withdrawal" on the Golan Heights. Beilin concludes that the linkage between the extent of "peace and security" and the "extent of withdrawal" is correct, and constitutes Israel's "guiding principle," which is "sufficiently ambiguous."

As for whether the Israeli and Arab parties could indeed sign joint declarations of principle as soon as next week, Beilin implies that the recent Israeli proposals could promote things and even help resolve the main difficulty in the autonomy talks with the Palestinians. Beilin: "In my opinion, this is the only possible proposal. I do not see any other alternative than mutual veto powers for the next five years regarding some of the most crucial issues for both parties. If this indeed proves to be the direction, I believe we have resolved the issue of autonomy."

Likud Overtures on Unity Government Rejected

TA1005080893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 May 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] While the government is in turmoil over the coalition crisis, authorized Likud elements yesterday approached Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other senior Labor figures with a proposal to launch negotiations toward the establishment of a national unity government.

In the wake of the appeal, authoritative party and prime minister's bureau elements said last night that there is no

intention at this stage of responding to the appeal or launching preliminary proceedings to explore the option of a unity government with the Likud.

Peres Rejects Claims of Not Fulfilling Commitments

TA1005172493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has rejected claims that Israel is not fulfilling commitments to the Palestinians. Peres said it was natural for both sides in negotiations to blame each other. He added, there has been progress in negotiations, perhaps not enough, but there is a basis for continuing the talks.

Dispute With U.S. Over Dotan Interrogation Reported

TA1005090993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 93 p A7

[Report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben and Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Justice Department is delaying the questioning of Rami Dotan and other Israelis who were implicated in the bribery and military aid embezzlement affair because of a dispute with the Israeli Government and several interrogatees over the conditions of interrogation. The Americans refuse, among other things, to grant the Israeli interrogatees' request for immunity from criminal prosecution in the United States as a result of their testimony. [passage omitted]

A U.S. investigation team was scheduled to arrive in Israel in mid-November 1992 to take statements from Dotan, some 10 other Air Force officers (some of whom have since retired from the Army), Defense Ministry staffers, and private civilians. After the advent of the new administration, however, the investigators announced that they were delaying their arrival.

Israeli elements have said that U.S. Justice Department officials, who were dissatisfied with the agreement on the Dotan interrogation terms, decided not to proceed in order to prevent a misinterpretation of their actions as consent to the terms of the agreement. They saw it as a political agreement achieved under pressure from the White House and the Pentagon, which wanted to accommodate Israel on the eve of the presidential elections. In order to revise the agreement and prevent it from serving as a precedent in the interrogation of other Israelis, they decided not to come to Israel before new Attorney General Janet Reno took office.

The two countries have been holding contacts over the past few weeks in an attempt to settle the matter of the investigation. Israel does not wish to change the terms of the agreement.

State Attorney Dorit Beinish, who conducted the Dotan affair contacts with the U.S. Justice Department, said yesterday that she will not react "as long as the agreement has not been signed."

Oil Shipments From Iraq Resume, Daily Supplies Increased

JN1105160293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Energy and Natural Resources Minister 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib has said that the movement of Jordanian trucks loaded with Iraqi oil destined for Jordan resumed as of 2400 on Monday [10 May]. He said that trucks crossed the Iraqi-Jordanian border loaded with crude oil and other oil products after the expiration of the period set by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council's decree to close the border with Jordan from Wednesday morning through last night. The Iraqi decree also prevented the movement of trucks carrying crude oil destined for Jordan.

It is worth noting that an agreement was reached between the Jordanian and Iraqi sides to increase the daily supply of oil shipped to Jordan to compensate for the shortage resulting from the five-day-long border closure.

Minister Receives U.S. Team, Discusses Peace Process

JN0805160793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has asserted that the unique relationship between His Majesty King Husayn, the homeland's leader, and his people who rally around his wise Hashemite leadership—a relationship which is accompanied by persistent and faithful work for Jordan's progress—was the main reason behind this country's confrontation of difficulties and challenges, as well as its steadfastness in overcoming them throughout Jordan's modern history.

During separate meetings with a delegation from the U.S. War College and a World Peace Service delegation at the Information Ministry today, al-Sharif added: The two delegations' visit coincides with the Kingdom's celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of King Husayn's assumption of his constitutional powers at a time when Jordan is witnessing the implementation of democracy, respect for human rights and freedoms, political pluralism, and popular political power sharing, in addition to the freedom of the press and respect for others' opinions.

Replying to questions from members of the two delegations, the information minister stressed Jordan's commitment to the peace process and to the principle of a peaceful solution to both the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. Such a solution aims to achieve a just, lasting, real, and dynamic peace in the region. This requires that Israel change its methods and mentality in dealing with the region's issues, he added.

Al-Sharif also stressed the need for Israeli authorities to halt their repressive and arbitrary measures against Palestinian citizens in the occupied Arab territories to show good faith and build confidence. This is so because the continuation of these measures will obstruct the peace process and place obstacles in its path.

Discussing the peace process, al-Sharif noted that so far there have been no actual breakthroughs, despite several positive signs from the Israeli side. He wondered: To what extent will the Americans be effective in pushing the Israelis into taking specific measures to ease the Palestinians' suffering in the occupied territories and return the deportees home?

Al-Sharif said: The United States can play a constructive role in the region by encouraging the Arab states to work together and realize that security and stability cannot be achieved by force but through cooperation.

King Husayn Receives Japanese Economic Official

JN1005200693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Akira Nishijaki, chairman of the board of directors of the Japanese overseas fund for economic cooperation [name and title as heard], at the Royal Hashemite Court today.

His majesty expressed his joy with the existing Jordanian-Japanese relations based on clarity, frankness, and mutual trust. He called for dealing with mankind as the nations greatest resource. He said: We call on all the region's countries to give a chance for the respect of human rights, political pluralism, participation in shouldering responsibility, and democracy. His majesty also reiterated the need for achieving a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace that will be accepted and defended by future generations.

The [Japanese] guest emphasized Jordan's role in achieving stability in the region thanks to its cultural, political, and economic openness. He said his country will support the region's progress to serve the interest of its people. He was happy to be briefed on Jordan's march of democracy and development.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, Dr. Ziyad Fariz, minister of planning, and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan.

Prime Minister Confers With Papal Envoy 9 May

JN0905125493 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has received visiting Papal envoy Cardinal Achille Silvestrini.

The prime minister expressed his deep appreciation of the cardinal's participation in Jordan's celebrations of the 40th anniversary of his majesty the king's assumption of constitutional powers.

Discussions covered the relations between Jordan and the Vatican. Cardinal Silverstrini stressed the pope's interest in achieving peace, stability, and progress in the Middle East.

'Satisfaction' Expressed Over UNRWA Decision on Fees

JN0905124893 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Jordan has voiced its satisfaction with the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency's [UNRWA] decision not to charge Palestinian refugees any fees for its basic services.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir also reiterated Jordan's keen interest in keeping cooperation with UN agency and help in achieving its mission.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said he raised this issue when he met with commissioner general of the organization Mr. Ilter Turkmen in Cairo last month.

Jordan also served a notice over the subject at a meeting of donating and hosting countries in Vienna on Friday.

Delegation Leaves for Cambodia To Supervise Elections

JN1105040393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] A Jordanian team left for Cambodia last night to take part in United Nations-supervised elections later this month. The 10-member Interior Ministry team of administrative governors and electoral experts is led by the ministry's administrative director.

Jordan sent the team upon a request by the UN Secretary General, joining personnel from seven world nations overseeing the Cambodian ballots.

Government Freezes Moves on New Sales Tax

JN1005083593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 May 93 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—The government has frozen all moves towards introducing a controversial sales tax and is trying to secure interim clearance to go ahead with debt rescheduling negotiations coming up next month without having to impose the levy, informed sources said Sunday.

The introduction of the tax is part of Jordan's economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and an IMF certification that the government is implementing the programme is a precondition for the debt rescheduling talks.

But opposition from within the Council of Ministers as well as considerations of the socio-economic impact of the sales tax have been holding up the enactment of a temporary law introducing the levy.

The assumption last week was that the tax would not be introduced at all by the present government of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir which was expected to step down in early May and that a successor cabinet, whether headed by al-Sharif Zayd or not, would enact the draft temporary law endorsed by a Royal decree. But His Majesty King Husayn asked al-Sharif Zayd to stay on for a few more weeks with the same team of ministers.

"Considering everything, the economic team of the Cabinet feels that the introduction of the sales tax should wait some more," said a senior official. "In the meantime, search is under way for a mechanism to secure the required IMF certification so that the government can negotiate debt rescheduling."

Economists noted that Jordan cannot afford to postpone the debt rescheduling talks beyond June 30 since a delay would mean a higher volume of due payments—capital and interest—which would pose greater problems for the Kingdom.

Jordan, which has already rescheduled debt repayments due until June 1993 to the Paris Club of the creditor governments, is seeking a similar deal over its obligations until December 1994. Negotiations with the London Club, with which Jordan has not finalised any agreement since 1989, are also due next month. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Reactions to Peace Talks

Fadlallah Denounces Talks

NC1005071793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that no Arab or Palestinian has the right to concede a single inch of land or relinquish any political position. The land, he explained, belongs to all generations, not to this political entity or that; it is the land of Islam, and no one can take a single particle of Islam's soil.

Speaking at a ceremony in Beirut yesterday, Fadlallah said: We do not find any legitimacy for negotiations and conciliation with the enemy. Israel has no legitimacy as long as the negotiations are conducted on the basis that it has a right to all occupied territories.

For his part, Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim said: We rejected the capitulation negotiations from the very beginning because they are based on abandoning land, not establishing justice. He said if the negotiations continue along the course planned for them, then the settlement of Palestinians certainly will take place in Lebanon and other Arab countries.

Commenting on so-called positive indications from the enemy at the negotiations, Shaykh Qasim described these as attempts to be clever, and as bubbles and traps that serve the Zionist enemy. He wondered how there can be positive indications from attempts to attack the resistance. The enemy has failed to undermine the resistance and has realized that it is not a group or groups of individuals, but an entire nation. He warned the Lebanese Government against falling in the Israeli trap to undermine the resistance.

Defense Minister Comments

NC0805174593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 May 93

[Interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by an unidentified radio correspondent on 7 May, on the "A Personality and an Opinion" program, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Minister, let us begin with a most pressing current affair. Israel has made a certain proposal. The details of the proposal are not clear yet but they have raised quite a stir in the domestic scene, prompting high-level exchanges to define the Lebanese response. It is being said that there is some progress on the Lebanese track of the Arab-Israeli talks. Israel says that it proposed a so-called political framework involving a joint military working group. What are the details of that proposal? In the past, you have rejected the formation of a Syrian- Israeli-Lebanese committee to look into unspecified matters [shu'un ghayr muhaddadah] and expressed the opinion that such a committee should examine the issue of withdrawal. Is what is being proposed now related to the issue of withdrawal?

[Dallul] Actually, I have not yet read the Israeli proposal. Ambassador Makkawi arrived yesterday [6 May] and he is supposed to meet officials today and brief them on the Israeli proposal. We earlier rejected the formation of a military committee because we should talk or negotiate with Israel about the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. Israel, however, wants to sidetrack us. What it wants is to revive, one way or another, the [Lebanese-Israeli] agreement of 17 May [1983; later unilaterally abrogated by Lebanon]. Israel wants to make us sign a unilateral peace with it, a matter we are vehemently opposed to.

The earlier proposal was that a joint committee be formed to examine what Israel used to call security arrangements. Israel did not mention withdrawal in that proposal. Lebanon's response was that a military committee should only be formed to examine or set a timetable for Israeli withdrawal.

I have not yet received exact information about the Israeli proposal. In my opinion, which is based on newspaper reports, the Israeli proposal is an embellishment of the previous proposal. Israel, even if it wants to offer something on the Lebanese track, is still playing its sly game. Israel is still engaged in the same tactics it always used with us and the rest of the world. Whenever it makes a move on the Lebanese track, it retreats on the other tracks. And when it takes a move on the Palestinian track, it retreats on the Syrian, Lebanese, or Jordanian tracks, etc. In my opinion, it is impossible to make progress on any track unless it coincides with progress on the other tracks.

Concerning Lebanon, we have a major problem with Israel, namely, the implementation of Resolution 425. So far—as of yesterday—the head of the Israeli delegation eschewed reference to the implementation of Resolution 425. He spoke about a number of interlinked issues, but not about Resolution 425. In my opinion, regardless of the positive elements that some see in the proposal, unless Israel unequivocally announces its intention to implement Resolution 425, it would be setting a trap for us. Israel wants to trick us by offering some ostensible flexibility and embellishing earlier proposals that we rejected. If Israel really wants to make remarkable progress on the Lebanese track, why has it not yet—we are in the ninth round of talks—announced its commitment to Resolution 425?

Israel is still maneuvering. Israel does not even recognize the armistice [Lebanese-Israeli agreement signed in 1949]. It still speaks of security arrangements and calls for an agreement securing its peace. As if Israel's security is threatened [Dallul chuckles] by Lebanon. This is a big lie. We know... [pauses] We are not Israel's policeman. But Israel knows that once it withdraws from Lebanon there will be no action against Israel from Lebanese soil.

Impossible. The situation will be under control and all actions against Israel will be ended.

So long as Israel occupied our land, we, as any people whose land is occupied, are entitled to resist the occupation with all available means. If we prevent the people from resisting, we would be defending the occupation and acting as a policeman whose job is to defend and protect the occupation, a matter I call treason.

I have opposed the formation of a military committee to discuss security issues in isolation of the issue of Israeli withdrawal. A military committee should only be devoted to drawing up arrangements, formula, and a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal. Other matters should be discussed in the framework of the regional situation as a whole, not just ours. [passage omitted on the ability of the Lebanese Army to maintain order in the south and the need for the peace talks to achieve simultaneous progress on all tracks]

[Correspondent] Minister, let us move to another issue, one that concerns the United States. We and others notice what can be described as a kind of flagrant interference in Lebanese affairs. For instance, the Lebanese judiciary has made a decision pardoning the suspected bombers of the U.S. Embassy in 1983, but the United States interceded with Lebanese officials, and probably the judiciary itself, to try and reverse that decision. There are a number of big incidents and crimes that took place in Lebanon and that took their toll on innocent people, including Arabs and brothers, and these crimes have been pardoned. How do you explain this U.S. interference, its timing, and its style?

[Dallul] I believe that instead of blaming those who interfere we should learn not to be influenced by that interference. We have full confidence in our judiciary. The Lebanese judiciary is independent and has immunity and power. The judiciary is capable of making up its own mind. Before, during, and after the war, the judiciary has proved its efficiency and probity. We are fully confident that it will not be influenced. You say that the United States is interfering. This is not the first time it has done so. The United States likes to interfere. We have to learn how to be immune to such interference and how to prevent it. We are a country with special problems and concerns, which we know how to deal with. We owe nothing to anyone. No one helped us. No one stood beside us, with the exception of Syria. What we have left... [pauses] No one can do anything to us.

The United States has not helped us in any way. To this day, America bans travel to Lebanon. This is so despite all the progress that happened in terms of security in the country. If it wants to protest, this is a legal matter. The United States interfered before in another legal matter and the courts issued a ruling that was not to its liking. In legal and political matters and in anything that counts we are bound to see foreign interference, particularly as there is a unified world order now. It is normal for such an order to aspire to interfere in everything and everywhere. But we have a duty to be alert and vigilant, to put up our defenses, and to prevent any side wanting to interfere in our affairs from achieving its goals.

[Correspondent] Minister, how about the Middle East [Airline—MEA]? Some officials, including the foreign minister, say that this is a legal rather than political matter. But at this very stage—one of reconstruction and restoring confidence in Lebanon—this U.S. policy or decision [regulating MEA business in the United States] has a very negative effect. Why, in your opinion, has the United States done this, knowing that it considers itself a full partner in the peace process?

[Dallul] We should not readily level accusations in every direction. We are passing through a very important phase and suspicions will only generate a pessimistic and negative mood into which we may be easily trapped. When the United States was asked to explain its policy on that matter it said this was a technical matter. The United States said that the MEA has, for the past six years, failed to abstain from issuing air tickets from the United States to Lebanon, violating a U.S. decision in this regard. MEA offices in the United States have been issuing tickets. This was the explanation we were given.

The United States is thinking of imposing fines on the MEA. The U.S. Administration can impose these fines or overlook the matter. If it overlooks the fines, then I would believe that the issue is technical, as it said. But if the United States insists on imposing huge fines, it can deal a heavy blow to the MEA at a time when the company is undergoing renovation; the fines should be seen as an attempt to undermine the company as a pillar of the Lebanese economy. If the United States overlooks the fines, then at some point in the future—some U.S. officials say by the end of this year—maybe all the decisions made or measures taken against Lebanon will be abrogated. [passage omitted in which Dallul supports legal action against Lebanese collaborating with Israel, urges patience on investigation in financial impropriety charges against former President Amin al-Jumayyil, pledges cooperation in investigation on Puma helicopters deal, supports recent closure of a local television station, and asserts that freedom of the press is protected in the country]

Hizballah Commentary Critical

NC0805085793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 May 93

[Political commentary]

[Text] Until recently, the Lebanese Government and the negotiating delegation have been refusing to go into any details at the negotiating table with the enemy and insisting that nothing can be discussed and that the only issue on the table is the implementation of UN Resolution 425, which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of the occupation forces from southern Lebanon. It seems, however, that the mechanism of the negotiations is

imposing itself and dictating the need to move away from basic principles to secondary issues raised by the enemy in the negotiations.

When we hear about positive proposals made by the Israeli delegation in the negotiations, one gets the impression that Israel has finally agreed to implement Resolution 425 and withdraw completely from Lebanese territory. This, however, is not what is being considered by the Zionists, who have constantly emphasized that the issue is not that of implementing resolutions, but of negotiations and an attempt to reach a peace agreement. So what is this positive proposal which Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz spoke about and which is being carried to Beirut by Ambassador Khalil Makkawi? Some reports said that Israel has offered a conditional withdrawal from Jazzin and that the condition is to end the resistance. The offer is not new; it was made about two years ago, before the Madrid Conference. What made the offer appear to be new this time was linking the withdrawal from Jazzin with halting the resistance and forming a joint military committee to discuss security problems as part of the political framework. This offer has no practical value. Israel is only trying to appear as being eager to propose solutions to break the deadlock in the negotiations.

But what has changed in the Lebanese position? There is great concern that the Lebanese Government's position has been greatly influenced by outside intervention and pressure, particularly from the United States and Europe. The Lebanese Government is being pressured to show flexibility in the negotiations, to stop insisting on the need to implement Resolution 425, and to enter into practical negotiations, because insistence on implementing the resolution expresses a desire to frustrate the negotiations and further complicate matters, making Lebanon the only party not engaged in practical negotiations. This means that Lebanon will pay the price for progress in the negotiations on the other tracks or fronts. The United States and Israel have been trying to resolve what is called the Lebanese knot resulting from the insistence on implementing Resolution 425. Israel is carrying out a number of maneuvers in this regard, while Washington is offering advice and exercising pressure.

After this quick review of the new elements under discussion, we offer a number of suggestions to the Lebanese Government out of a sense of national responsibility and the need not to fall in the Israeli traps. We first recall that most Lebanese have not accepted Lebanon's participation in the negotiations, and therefore this participation remains illegitimate. The only extent to which it has gained any legitimacy is by joining with the Arab group taking part in the negotiations. Any agreement on specific compromises will torpedo Lebanon's right to liberate all its territory. The enemy's offer to withdraw from Jazzin does not represent a commitment to implement Resolution 425, because Jazzin is outside the scope of this resolution. We say to the government that its responsibility is not to show its negotiating acumen in Washington, but to make a commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the confrontation with the enemy and demonstrate steadfastness in the face of his ambitions and continuous aggression. All the Lebanese people sense the state's shortcomings and even negligence in this regard. It is not enough to recognize the Lebanese people's right to resist the enemy; what is needed is for the government to support this resistance and the people's steadfastness, which in itself is resistance.

Al-Rantisi Comments

NC1105100893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, held a news conference today in the camp at Marj al-Zuhur. Commenting on the Israeli agreement to add the names of 25 deportees to the list of 101 deportees that Israel agreed to take back, he said that there is absolutely nothing new in this decision worthy of a response. He said that this decision is part of the U.S.-Israeli deal, stressing that the best solution to the deportees issue is Security Council Resolution 799.

On the reduction the members of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks to three, al-Rantisi said that the Palestinian delegation no longer has any excuse to stay at the negotiating table. He said: The Zionist enemy's true intentions behind the negotiations have become clear. The aim of the negotiations is to further humiliate and bring the Palestinian people to their knees. He said that the Palestinian delegation had better walk out, and act to intensify the intifadah that forced the Israeli leaders to speak publicly about withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Addressing the Arab delegations, al-Rantisi said: Is it not time for the Arab delegations to realize that the enemy wants to make gains at the expense of the nation's and Palestinian people's expense? Let them return to their countries and prepare for liberating their land. He said the only progress that can be made at the negotiating table is Arab withdrawal from the talks.

Buwayz Comments

NC1005172293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 May 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by correspondent Wardah [not further identified] in Beirut on 8 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Wardah] What is the Israeli proposal received by the government?

[Buwayz] Of course, Mrs. Wardah, if I want to tell you literally what the Israeli plan is, then it is better to publish it, thus revealing the negotiations and the credibility of the negotiating delegation. Of course, the plan can't be different from the reality. It concerns the Israeli side's view of peace, its view on withdrawing from Lebanon. This is a proposal from the Israeli viewpoint.

Naturally, it will remain an Israeli proposal and will need a Lebanese counterproposal so that the negotiations can later be focused on reaching solutions that can satisfy everyone. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] Concerning the cabinet crisis in Israel, is it a real cabinet crisis, or do you believe it is a cover up in order to continue with the peace negotiations and facilitate the Israeli stand, thus preventing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin from falling into the lap of Israeli extremism and consequently the collapse of the negotiations?

[Buwayz] No. In fact, they were very clear in saying that this is a cabinet crisis involving one person and the issue of education there. Of course, this is not isolated from the issue of negotiations. In any case, I believe that it is difficult to speculate at this moment about what will happen. The prime minister there might possibly dispense with the extremist party Shas and replace it with other coalitions or expand his coalition with the Meretz party. He might replace the Shas party with the Orthodox Jews group. I believe that all this is mere speculation at the moment, but it is necessary to follow these events closely to learn how to deal with the negotiations. This will define the speed of the negotiations. If there is a freeze for three weeks or a month until the Israeli cabinet is reshuffled or changed, then this imposes on us certain considerations. But if things are sped up, then we have to take other considerations into account.

[Wardah] Mr. Minister. You have undoubtedly heard about the view of a senior parliamentary source, and circles are confirming that it is the view of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. What is your reply to the reservations shown by this senior parliamentary source? Have you taken it into account? Or have you a different view?

[Buwayz] In fact, when it comes to analyzing the Israeli proposal, I believe that we are in complete agreement. There was complete agreement on the way it was analyzed and on assessing it. Hence, I can confirm that there are no differences in viewpoints regarding the analysis of the Israeli proposal and also with respect to the outline of the Lebanese counterproposal.

[Wardah] My last question. It is known that Resolution 426 is a mechanism for implementing Resolution 425. Is the Israeli proposal an amendment to Resolution 425 or to Resolution 426?

[Buwayz] I have already said that the Israeli proposal includes some new signs that have not been submitted in previous rounds. This is not bad. But these proposals and they way they were submitted remain vague and need further clarification and study. This is natural, and it is the task of the negotiations. This task is to get the other party to give shape to some policies that it might have made cautiously and to write them clearly on paper in a way that facilitates their implementation.

[Wardah] Thank you, Minister Faris Buwayz.

[Buwayz] Thank you.

Minister on U.S. Travel Ban to Lebanon

NC1005172993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] 'Umar Misqawi, minister of state for transportation affairs, has affirmed that the Middle East Airline Company's [MEA] offices in Washington did not violate any U.S. laws. The measures adopted by the U.S. Administration prohibiting the sale of tickets to Beirut do not only affect the MEA, but all the companies that issue direct flight tickets to Beirut.

Misqawi said he hopes that the U.S. position banning travel to Lebanon will change. He added that such a position is harmful, considering the relations between Lebanon and the United States. Misqawi said that the U.S. decision considering Beirut Airport as insecure is no longer justified today given the existing stability, which is supported by the United States itself.

Israeli Decision Rejected on Return of 25 Deportees

NC1105085493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] A Palestinian deportee and leading member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] said in Marj al-Zuhur today that the deportees reject the Israeli decision to allow 25 deportees to return home along with 100 other deportees who Israel agreed to return to the occupied lands on 1 February. He noted that there is nothing new in the Israeli offer because it is part of the Israeli-U.S. deal, which we have already rejected. He pointed out that the decision to return is collective, not individual. He stressed that Israel should implement Security Council Resolution 799.

Hizballah Congress Discusses Policy Document

PM0705132493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 93 p 3

[Muhammad Shuqayr report: "Hizballah Continues To Oppose Government and Negotiations: Islamic-Christian Dialogue Required, But Without Western 'Sponsorship'"]

[Text] Beirut—Hizballah's third general congress concluded its proceedings by unanimously reelecting Hasan Nasrallah secretary general, emphasizing its opposition to the government of Rafiq al-Hariri, and welcoming the continuation of the Islamic-Christian dialogue, but with "no Western sponsorship."

Through the policy document discussed at the third general congress Hizballah emphasized its opening up to all Lebanese parties, except those who are still in contact with Israel or enjoy links on the border strip. It pointed to its adherence to the resistance option as an alternative to the negotiations. It called for the formation of a national committee tasked with proposing methods capable of abolishing political sectarianism, studying

and submitting them to the Chamber of Deputies and the Council of Ministers, and monitoring implementation of a phased plan.

The party's third general congress was held in Beirut on Thursday 29 April and lasted one day. It was preceded by a number of preparatory meetings. It carried the name "Congress of Martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi." It was attended by over 300 delegates constituting the electoral body. The congress reelected Mr. Nasrallah secretary general and speaker of the Shura Committee. He spent a transitional period in this position, succeeding former Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi. Al-Musawi was assassinated in February 1992 in the town of Kawthariyat al-Siyad in the south during an Israeli raid on his motorcade while returning to Beirut from Jibshit, where he had participatioedin the commemorative celebration to mark the occasion of Shaykh Raghib Harb's martyrdom.

According to AL-HAYAH's information, the general congress discussed the policy document, which contained a review and assessment of developments. It also approved the broad outlines of the present and future political stage. These outlines which Hizballah will follow noted no change in its basic and fundamental positions. These outlines emphasized the continuation of the "Islamic resistance" policy and the need to bolster and develop resistance action on the basis of protecting the relationship between the fighters and people in the frontline villages in the south and in western al-Biqa'.

Hizballah took the view that the resistance option remains the alternative to the negotiations, which will not lead to the achievement of Arab and Islamic rights. It said that rejection of the negotiations is something inevitable, because they are proceeding against the peoples' will. Thus "no one is entitled to claim representation of the peoples and the right to negotiate over the establishment of peace treaties or normalization with Israel."

The broad outlines broached Hizballah's foreign relations, first and foremost with the Islamic republic in Iran, as Hizballah believes that "Iran is our authority in the big decisions and the man in charge is Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, who is exercising the role of deputy to Imam al-Mahdi, just as the late imam Ayatollah Khomeyni exercised it."

In this context, Hizballah stresses the importance of "the strategic relationship with Iran and its special relationship with Syria in view of their common interests, while views of the negotiations issue differ." It also emphasizes the need to bolster and strengthen its relations with all Islamic and national liberation movements. "We regard ourselves as their friends, first and foremost friends of the intifadah in occupied Palestine, which is the real twin of the Islamic resistance in Lebanon."

On the political situation in Lebanon, Hizballah adheres to its view based on "rejecting the sectarian system and calling for the abolition of political sectarianism. It urges its parliamentary bloc (loyal to the resistance) to quickly reactivate the higher national committee entrusted with abolishing political sectarianism in order to crystallize the party's view." The "party" will work to prepare an integrated study concerning the abolition of political sectarianism and will request its deputies to present it and follow it up in the chamber.

As for its position toward the government, it stresses its opposition to the government of Prime Minister al-Hariri. It intends to pursue this policy by democratic means.

The broad outlines of the policy document speak about Hizballah's view of Islamic-Christian coexistence and about strengthening its relations with all parties in accordance with the fixed principles governing its relations with all Islamic and national forces and social groups, while maintaining the same position toward any group that establishes a relationship with Israel or has links with it.

In other words, it bans the establishment of any relations with parties which have direct or indirect contacts with Israel. "We are for dialogue and the need to reactivate it, provided it originates from Lebanon."

The broad outlines deal with the Islamic-Christian dialogue question and call for its development and reactivation, provided it is not conducted in a framework imposed from outside (the Vatican and the West). The outlines state that the people of the country are required to establish a dialogue among themselves without any foreign backing or sponsorship.

It is noted that the broad outlines did not specify Hizballah's position on the synod. However they believe that the synod's role should be limited to Christian groups, and that the Lebanese—Christians and Muslims—should agree on the future formula for Lebanon. It is not the synod's job to draw up this formula.

The policy document espoused the experiment in which Hizballah engaged through its joining of the political game from within the parliament. It considered it a successful experiment, saying that it should be reinforced "as the experiment has proved that Hizballah is capable of standing on more than one of the main platforms to exercise political action and express its fixed principles and benefit from this presence to serve the Lebanese."

It is natural for the situation on the Shiite scene in Lebanon to be at the top of the agenda of the third general congress' proceedings. There was an emphasis on the establishment of strong relations with the Amal Movement in view of "the common interests between them, prompted by their positions on the most notable issues."

The general congress discussed the issue of the relationship between Hizballah and the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, "leaving the Shura Committee to formulate the

nature of this relationship and determine the final position on the elections of the legislative and executive committees in the Shiite Council."

With regard to organizational matters which the general congress discussed, the electoral body elected the new members for the Shura Committee, which represents the party's higher leadership.

As is known, it is members of the Shura Committee, "according to the rules," who elect the secretary general. And they unanimously elected Nasrallah secretary general. He is also considered chairman of the Shura Committee.

In this regard AL-HAYAH has learned that elected members of the Shura Committee include new names in addition to the old ones, most of whom were reelected. This is in the knowledge that former Hizballah Secretary General Subhi al-Tufayli did not run for the Shura Committee. He decided not to enter its elections, which witnessed strong competition between a number of candidates.

As for completing the party's leadership structure, the head of the Political Bureau should be among the members of the Shura committee. It seems that the general congress decided to reelect Hajj Husayn al-Khalil, in addition to regarding Hizballah deputies as members of the Political Bureau, which constitutes a parallel to the Shura Committee (that is, a shadow government) and is in charge of implementing and following up the political matters formulated by the Shura Committee.

The Political Bureau supplies the Shura Committee with all required information, beginning with preparing for the political decisions to be taken by the Shura Committee. The Shura Committee decided to grant Nasrallah exceptional powers.

Hizballah is expected to complete the organizational steps with regard to electing an executive official for the Shura Committee and a deputy for the secretary general. Nasrallah is to hold a press conference shortly to talk about the party's orientations at the end of its third general congress.

Negotiator Notes No Change in Israeli Stand on Golan

PM1005180493 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 9 May 93 p 11

[Interview with Muwaffaq Al-'Allaf, leader of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by correspondent Renato Pera in Washington; date not given; all quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Washington—[passage omitted] "Unfortunately, this readiness [on Israel's part to return the Golan Heights] seems not to have materialized. We have been in deadlock for almost two weeks now because we are offering total peace in exchange for Israel's total withdrawal from the Golan, while our interlocutors, simply to delay this withdrawal or carry it out a little at a time, are asking us what we mean by 'total peace.' In short, our interlocutors' attitude has not changed since the first rounds." [passage omitted]

[Pera] So your assessment of these first two weeks is not positive?

[Al-'Allaf] No, but that does not mean that it is all negative. Since we are talking about a crucial round in the negotiations—if they fail, then the entire peace process fails—I am certain that even in this third week efforts will be made to achieve some result. Unfortunately, I must note that the change in attitude which we hoped for from Israel after the Rabin government took office is only in form and certainly not in substance.

[Pera] The Rabin government has recently shown signs of instability. Early elections are not ruled out nor is a return to power by Likud, led no longer by the hawk Shamir but by the superhawk Netanyahu. Does such a prospect worry you?

[Al-'Allaf] No, because in Israel the differences between hawks and doves are minimal to nonexistent. Take Rabin: He was elected as a man of peace and detente, yet with his government we have seen the expulsion of the 400 Hamas members and unprecedented brutality in putting down the intifadah.

[Pera] Are you so attached to the Golan because of its strategic position?

[Al-'Allaf] The Golan is only relatively important, if at all, from a strategic viewpoint, and the Gulf War proved that. In other words, Iraq had no need of heights overlooking Israel to launch its Scuds. We want the Golan because it is our land, because it was taken away from us. By asking for it back, we are not asking Israel to make any territorial sacrifices, although it has always been very attached to those heights. To get them, between the 1950's and 1967 it provoked numerous border incidents for which it was held responsible both by the United Nations and by the ad hoc armistice commission.

[Pera] All the Arab countries, with the sole exception of Egypt, consider themselves at war with Israel. Does that not seem to you to provide sufficient explanation as to why a tiny nation, surrounded by countries both warlike and united by their language and religion, is adopting all necessary measures to safeguard its own security?

[Al-'Allaf] Israel must stop thinking of itself as a garrison state. It must leave behind the philosophy of exploitation and repression. Only then, only when it learns the importance of cooperation between peoples, can there be hope of peace.

[Pera] Israel and the United States favor permanent negotiations—i.e. without interruptions—because "what is not carried forward is carried backward," as their spokesman said recently. Do you agree?

[Al-'Allaf] No, because permanent negotiations would only serve to provide a cover for the killing, the repression, and the new settlements. We will not lend ourselves to such a cover.

Greater U.S. Involvement in Peace Talks Urged

JN1005175093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The ninth round of talks will today enter its third week without signs of substantive progress that would place the Middle East on the path of a just, genuine peace. Despite the fact that the talks have tackled serious issues, the Israeli side has constantly evaded the most important requirement of the peace process; namely withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967.

When we review the events of previous rounds, as well as the current round, we will find that the Arabs took the lead in making initiatives to boost the peace process and end the state of stalemate and stumbling. We note here that Syria has twice opened the doors to peace, which Israeli rulers had closed; first, when it responded to the U.S. initiative and the world efforts to convene the Madrid conference, which Yitzhaq Shamir then sought to foil; and, second, when it accepted the calls made by the current U.S. Administration to resume the Washington talks and helped formulate a unified Arab position toward the U.S. assurances and commitments despite all the obstacles Yitzhaq Rabin placed on the path of peace.

In the sixth round, Syria submitted a document containing balanced and objective proposals. This document was praised by the entire world, particularly the peace process cosponsors. Israel, on the other hand, has not made any constructive or substantive proposals to achieve the just and comprehensive peace. Instead, the Israeli rulers continued, as usual, to follow the policy of maneuvering and procrastination. They responded to the offers for a comprehensive and complete peace with proposals for a partial withdrawal in the Golan Heights; an autonomy plan that does not meet the Palestinian

people's aspirations to freedom, independence, and self-determination; and an attempt to shackle Lebanon with a host of security measures and arrangements that infringe on its sovereignty over its territory.

This Israeli behavior has made it clear that Israel's rulers do not want peace but claim to seek it to mislead public opinion and prevent the world from pressuring it into achieving tangible progress in the ninth round of talks.

The equation of a comprehensive peace in exchange for a complete withdrawal constitutes a major step forward and a decisive turning point in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. If the Israeli rulers were really interested in achieving peace, they would have accepted the Arab offer, engaged in serious talks, and underlined a commitment to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, instead of wasting time and effort by promoting partial withdrawals, phased settlements, and strange, weird interpretations of the UN Security Council resolutions, which need no interpretation. Resolution 242 stipulates the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. That resolution was reinforced by a series of resolutions that annulled Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and Jerusalem and considered the settlements an illegal act. Resolution 425, meanwhile, stipulates Israeli troops unconditional withdrawal from South Lebanon.

The complete and comprehensive peace is the real guarantee for a Middle East security, stability, and prosperity. It is a world demand, as well as an Arab demand. The comprehensive, complete peace will also benefit all those seeking an established and lasting settlement in the region. Israeli avoidance of this formula and its requirements mean only an avoidance of the peace process and an insistence on occupation and expansion. Everybody knows that peace and occupation do not go together and that peace is impossible unless Israel categorically abandons the policy of expansion and aggression.

With the approaching end of the ninth round, the world's attention is focused on Washington. Peace lovers all over the world are urging the United States to translate into action its commitments and fulfill the role of the full, fair partner that it has pledged to play. Failure to achieve any real progress in this round will not only cause despair to the Arab delegations, but will also expose the peace process to grave threat, especially since the Arab delegations have exerted every effort to ensure the success of the talks, while Israel, as usual, reneged on its commitments and continued to follow the policy of maneuvering and procrastination.

Should the ninth round ends without tangible results, a severe blow will be dealt to the United States' credibility. The United States, represented by the Clinton administration, has made pledges and given assurances, and consequently managed to convince the Arab parties to attend the talks. For these to lead to success—that is, comprehensive peace—the world community, particularly the United States, must assume its full role and responsibility. Peace in the end is as vital to the world as it is to the countries of the Middle East.

Commentary Reviews Second Week of Peace Talks

JN0705150093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 7 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The second week of the Washington talks has ended without any results. The third week is not expected to see a better fate as a result of Israel's procrastination and its wasting of time. This is due to the fact that the Israeli negotiating team is not authorized to proceed to the point where these talks can move forward.

As heads of the Arab delegations have asserted, the peace talks must deal with serious issues. The Israelis, however, are not serious about accepting the Security Council resolutions which provide for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. In its preamble, Resolution 242 stipulates the inadmissibility of acquiring others' territory by force. It also calls on Israel to withdraw its troops from occupied Arab territory and recommends a settlement that will guarantee security for all parties. Of all the articles enshrined in Resolution 242, the Israelis stop only to read the article on security, and regard territorial expansion as a guarantee of security. In fact, Resolution 242 regards peace as a synonym for security, and views the occupation and annexation of territory as a serious threat to Middle East peace and security. The Security Council issued this resolution primarily to champion the victim and not to justify or hide the aggressor's crimes.

The Security Council issued many resolutions which compliment Resolution 242. These resolutions include Resolution 338, issued on 22 October 1973, which calls for implementing a previous resolution. They also include Resolution 497, issued on 17 December 1981, which deems Israel's Judaization measures in the Golan null and void and baseless, and affirms that the Golan is Syrian territory and is an indivisible part of Syria.

The Security Council has also issued many resolutions on Jerusalem. Foremost among them is Resolution 252, issued on 21 May 1986, which stipulates that Israel's action making Jerusalem the Jewish capital is illegal. Resolution 298 denounces Israel's alteration of Jerusalem's status. In other resolutions, the Security Council denounced the building of settlements and the alteration of the occupied territories' features.

All these resolutions compliment Resolution 242 and strongly refute the Israelis' allegations and morbid fantasies. Resolution 425 calls on the Tel Aviv rulers to immediately and unconditionally withdraw their troops from southern Lebanon. Not only Arabs, but the entire international community as well, have made these explanations. We have not heard a single voice justifying the Israeli rulers' attempts to annex Jerusalem and part of the Golan, not to mention their continued building of

settlements. Through its officials and its peace initiative, the United States announced that Resolution 242 applies to all territories occupied in 1967.

As Resolution 242 does not permit the acquisition of territory by force, and indeed provides for withdrawal, it is natural that Israel should commit itself to withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. Israel has not yet done so despite the succession of two governments in Israel and despite the current government's claims that it is working to promote the peace process and achieve a quick solution to the overall issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Voices are occasionally heard in Israel saying that peace with Syria and the Arabs is impossible without complete withdrawal. However, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who controls the course of negotiations in Washington, is working to obstruct the peace process by declaring on every possible occasion that Israel will not return to the 1967 borders, and by taking savage measures against Arab citizens such as deporting hundreds of Palestinians, sealing off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, killing children and women, and blowing up homes.

Viewing the course of negotiations in Washington and the rabid Israeli practices against our kinfolk in the occupied territories as the initial signs of a government crisis in Israel, it has been obvious that Rabin stands behind all this intransigence and procrastination, that his belief in peace does not exceed Shamir's, and that the two men ultimately converge on the issue of undermining the peace process by rejecting withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The entire world heard the Arab leaders and negotiators say that they are ready to implement the Security Council resolutions literally and abide by all requirements of peace. Has the world heard the Israelis say that they are ready for complete withdrawal from the occupied territories? The Israelis have never even uttered the word withdrawal, which, if ever mentioned, was said in the wrong context or was distorted. The question remains: How long will this procrastination continue?

The Arab delegations responded to the U.S. desire to extend the ninth round of talks for a third week. However, there have been no signs that Israel's intransigence has changed. Israeli allegations about a breakthrough in this or that track are mere buffoonery, lies, and represent an attempt to divide Arab ranks. It is obvious that the third week of talks will be no better than the previous two weeks if the Israeli side does not fulfill the obligations stipulated in Resolution 242 regarding full withdrawal from the Arab territories. Israel has thus far refrained from doing so. Land is the key to peace, and there will be no peace if all the occupied Arab territories are not returned to their owners.

Papers Express Disappointment With 9th Round

JN0905093393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Press commentaries focus on the resumption of peace talks in the third week of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington amid negative and discouraging expectations due to the Israeli stands, which have remained unchanged.

Under the headline "Disappointing Results," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Tomorrow, the sessions of the third week of the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks will be resumed in Washington amid an atmosphere of disappointment, thanks to Israeli positions. For the Rabin government has not presented anything new in the sessions of talks held during the first and second weeks of the talks. Indeed, it has enhanced its maneuvering, intensified its deceptive course, stepped up its provocative stands, and maintained its methods of deception and beguilement.

The paper adds: A careful examination of the results yielded by the past two weeks of talks shows that these talks were futile. This is because the talks have not addressed substantive issues pertaining to the peace process, its true components, and its basic elements. In these two weeks of talks, Israel has deliberately chosen to waste time and effort in discussions and proposals that contravene the bases of a genuine and just peace.

TISHRIN goes on to say: With regard to the Palestinian track of negotiations, the reported draft declaration of principles proposed cannot at all serve as a basis for an agreement to terminate the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is because the Israeli draft declaration proposed reflected an arbitrary division of the occupied territories. Besides, this draft fell short of pronouncing a commitment by Israel to the terms of reference for the peace process, as stipulated by Resolutions 242 and 338. Worse still, Israel has reneged on its promise to repatriate the Palestinian deportees stranded in Marj al-Zuhur—a development which caused the suspension of meetings of the human rights subcommittee emanating from the bilateral Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. With respect to the Lebanese track of negotiations, Israel has proposed a complicated and difficult formula that fell short of enunciating a commitment to implement Resolution 425.

TISHRIN says: As regards the Syrian track of negotiations, the discussions continued to revolve around the paragraph which addresses the steps that need to be taken to implement Resolution 242; that is, the issue of withdrawal. Israel has failed to take a single step forward because the Israeli delegation was not empowered or authorized to go any further. The Israeli delegation demonstrated a great deal of evasion and procrastination, speaking of partial withdrawals in the Golan. These discussions have made it clear that the Israeli rulers are

opposed to complete withdrawal, that they do not want to see the talks activated or invigorated, and that they are not after a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says that the peace talks must be saved from the stalemate they have reached, thanks to the Israeli conduct. This is possible, the paper maintains, if the United States intervenes directly to dot the i's and cross the t's, to establish the credibility of the full partner, and to honor the U.S. pledges made by the Clinton administration prior to the convening of the ninth round of talks.

In one of its commentaries, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the same issue, saying: The ninth round of the peace talks were scheduled to have been concluded by now had it not been for the Arabs' support for the peace process. The Arabs hope that the chances for the success of the ninth round of talks will not be killed. Out of their desire to give the United States the opportunity to honor its promises by playing the role of a full partner in the talks in order to extricate the peace process from the impasse it is experiencing and from the stalemate it has reached, thanks to the intransigent Israeli positions, the Arabs have accepted an extension of the talks.

Wondering about Israel's conduct, the paper asks: For how long will Israel continue to mark time and perpetrate further terrorist practices in the occupied territories as well as flagrant attacks on southern Lebanon? For how long will Israel continue to play games of procrastination, which render it incapable of addressing substantive issues in the peace process; namely, issues pertaining to withdrawal in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338, which are the terms of reference for the peace process, and the land-for-peace formula? For how long will the Arabs continue to provide concrete evidence of their sincere peaceful intentions, while Israel shows indifference to the entire world community, oblivious of international stands? For how long will the world continue to accept Rabin's assertions that he will not accept withdrawal of Israeli troops—something which reflects an attempt to kill the peace process?

Elaborating, the paper says: Because the United States, before anybody else, is well aware that the Arabs have repeatedly opened the doors for the peace process, it is required to play its role in full to advance the peace process on the basis of the terms of reference for this process. Consequently, it must ensure Israel's compliance with international legitimacy.

In another commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that Israel has not thus far presented any concrete evidence of its willingness to meet the conditions and requirements of peace. Israel, the paper adds, continues to adhere to provocative and intransigent conceptions and stands—which makes it difficult for the talks to make even the slightest progress.

The paper adds: Israeli obstruction of the talks has not been confined to procrastination, deception, and evasion of commitment to the basic components of peace. It has not only been reflected in its opposition to the principle of complete withdrawal, and in the denial of the Palestinian people's right to full sovereignty on their territory, indeed, Israeli obstructionism has taken more flagrant forms. For, since the start of the ninth round of talks, Israel has persisted with its brutal repression in the occupied territories. This shows that Israel neither desires peace, nor is it making any effort to achieve it. Israel is holding on to the occupied Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH says: Israel will undoubtedly be harboring delusions if it believes that it is possible to achieve peace with the Arabs without changing its provocative and intransigent stands and without ending its repressive and bestial practices. Israel must be fully aware that its hateful practices not only pose threats to the peace opportunity currently available, but also could lead to more wars and to regional instability.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: It is high time for all those concerned for the peace process, particularly the United States, to be aware of this fact. They must hasten to save the Washington talks from the imminent danger facing them. This is achievable only if serious and practical steps are taken. Such steps must aim at making Israel subscribe to the notion of complete withdrawal.

Information Minister Discusses Media Policies

JN1005112193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 May 93 p 20

[Interview with Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman by Tawfiq Abu-Bakr; place and date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Bakr] What is the philosophy of the Syrian media. Why do they seem economical, perhaps vague, at times? Why do they not follow what we call "initiative and offensive policy"?

[Salman] The Syrian media express and explain the state's domestic development policy and Arab and foreign policy. Since the Corrective Movement was launched by President Hafiz al-Asad, the purpose of this policy has been to entrench national unity and urge more efforts in the international arena to champion the causes of the Arab nation, which are supported by international legitimacy. Since 1970, the Syrian media have been steadfastly practicing this policy in a very clear, principled manner. They have not engaged in sensationalism, deception, or marginal battles, since they are committed to the causes of their country and nation. If you are accusing our media of being economical, vague, and subdued, then let me ask you is the function of the media to spread awareness or to be sensational and clamorous?

The media aim to express policy, rather than fabricate unprincipled policy. Since 1970, our political leadership has directed that we desist from slandering or disparaging others.

[Abu-Bakr] If Syria is embracing political openness and greater pluralism, will that materialize in allowing the issuance of private newspapers and magazines? Is there any reason why this should not happen?

[Salman] Openness has more than one meaning. If it means adopting a Western-style policy, then we are not going to wear a robe that does not fit our social, political, mental, and cultural identity.

We are in a state of war with an enemy that occupies part of our national soil. This enemy also makes no secret of its ambitions, which conflict with international legitimacy and UN resolutions. This requires immunizing citizens politically and culturally all the time through the official media, as well as through the parties of the National Progressive Front, and the popular, professional, and cultural organizations. The media have a national and pan-Arab mission that cannot be overlooked in times of foreign threats and to face cultural invasion and policies aimed at driving people to despair and idleness, in addition to creating alienation.

[Abu-Bakr] Do you have plans to develop the local press so as to compete with the neighboring press which greatly surpasses it? For example, the Syrian papers have no columns by Arab writers, and there is no discussion of topical issues, giving different views. The radio has really developed and it is heard outside the country, but the situation of the press is still different.

[Salman] The press is constantly developing on the professional and technical levels, but we cannot compare this with the radio or television, because each medium has its own qualities. We express in our media the policy drawn up by our political leadership, away from sensationalism or competition, or any other heading that could be used as a cover to propagate policies or ideas that are like harmful weeds that have a deceptive appearance.

[Abu-Bakr] In the cordon states two meetings that were held in Damascus to decide on participation in the ninth round, everybody spoke about the justifications for participation, the difficulties that would be encountered, and the perils to be avoided. Many in the press mentioned that Syria exerted pressure on the Palestinians to have them participate. There was much talk about this while the Syrian media remained silent. Why do you not address such matters and clarify stands? What is the truth behind all that was reported?

[Salman] There is nothing that we should conceal with respect to our political stands. This has been our policy since 1970. If there are people who raise a clamor and hide their heads in the sand like the ostrich, then this is their concern.

As for the recent meetings of the foreign ministers of the parties involved in the peace process in Damascus, we did not bring pressure to bear on anyone. We only try to coordinate with the concerned brothers from the premise of the pan-arab responsibility we all share in the assessment of developments in the arena of struggle and the adoption of a unified decision out of commitment to the principle of total withdrawal for total peace.

We have clearly announced that we are working for the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts. We warned against the maneuvers and obstacles that Israel fabricates to abort the peace process, including the deportees issue. We have affirmed in the United Nations and during our Arab and international contacts that the settlement of their problem resides in the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799.

This does not mean that our reaction to every obstacle raised by Israel is to give up the peace process which Israel seeks to shirk. Israel seeks to do this because the requirements of peace mean that it would have to give up the occupied territories, and recognize the Palestinian people's national rights. This is affirmed by the U.S. initiative which we originally supported because it is based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242 and not on holding negotiations with Israel far from the principle of exchanging land for peace and implementing resolutions adopted by international legitimacy.

Our united stand is the best proof of our coordination and that we have the same approach to the peace process, which has placed Israel in a corner despite the maneuvers and obstacles it fabricates on the road to peace. Within this context, what was discussed at the Damascus meetings focused on principled issues and not on formal ones such as changing the date for the resumption of the Washington talks from 20 to 27 April.

[Abu-Bakr] The Arab negotiator needs Arab solidarity behind him. He needs a united Arab force to back his stands during the negotiations. Does Syria think of taking the initiative to regain this lost Arab solidarity, or are circumstances not yet ripe for this?

[Salman] One of the major characteristics of our Arab policy since the 1970 Corrective Movement has been to do everything possible to achieve an Arab solidarity that will bring about unity of Arab vision and action against the challenges our Arab nation faces, specifically the Zionist threat that spares no Arab.

Out of this pan-Arab concern, President Hafiz al-Asad had called on the Arab brothers, early in the 1990's, to realize solidarity, overcome side differences and conflicts, and deal with the international changes through a unified Arab position, because the Arabs' strength is in their unity. We have made and continue to make efforts to heal the Arab rift and contain any differences among Arab brothers. These efforts are based on our firm belief that nothing weakens the Arabs more than the absence of solidarity or a unified position. Hence, we talk and consult with the brothers on various pan-Arab issues with the aim of entrenching the Arab position. This has been manifested, particularly in our commitment to a just and comprehensive peace and our rejection of any separate settlement.

[Abu-Bakr] How are issues of political democracy proceeding in Syria? How do you evaluate the need to expedite this process following the Gulf crisis, which would not have taken place had there been democracy? How do you assess the need to expedite this option following the sweeping changes in the world represented by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist bloc, which was partly caused by the lack of political democracy? How does Damascus and the Ba'th Party view these major strategic issues?

[Salman] The political pluralism we practice is not new, and is not a reaction to the developments and changes in the international arena. We have adopted political pluralism since the onset of the Corrective Movement, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, who laid the basis for entrenching national unity through forming the National Progressive Front with the aim of consolidating our internal front in face of the Zionist enemy. As a result of political pluralism, the Syrian position received more strength and ability to influence and act at the national and pan-Arab levels.

In addition to the front, this political pluralism was entrenched by the People's Assembly and local administrative elections. These elections represent our concept of democracy that is derived from our situation, circumstances, heritage, and future vision. We do not want to imitate anyone or to import the political system that does not suit our concepts and values, particularly that our people are living a state of internal stability that is rare in the Arab arena and in third world countries. No winds can uproot the one who has deep roots within the people.

[Abu-Bakr] In your view, how much as been achieved regarding Arab media coordination and joint Arab media establishments? Why do you not propose setting up Arab media establishments that can confront the influence of some negative aspects of the Western media, based on these establishments remaining to the extent possible away from political differences?

[Salman] Except for the media coordination that takes place within the Arab League, the level of this coordination is very modest due to several factors. Most important of these factors is the failure to rise to the level of the pan-Arab responsibility in the Arab media action. However, we should not surrender and despair. The current situation should motivate us to adhere to our pan-Arab constants and to emphasize them, foremost of which are Arab solidarity, defending the causes of the nation in face of the cultural and political invasion, and addressing the world public opinion in the language of right, justice, and international legitimacy. Every step we make in this direction is an added brick in our steadfastness and solidarity that constitute the essence of our strength and historic action.

Bangladesh

Protest Marches Banned During Parliament Opening

BK0805090793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Dhaka, May 8 (AFP)—Rallies and marches are to be banned from parts of the capital as Bangladesh's parliament prepares for its opening budget session on Sunday, Dhaka police said Saturday.

The carrying of firearms and ammunition in the Sher-e-Banglanagar District, where the parliament complex is located, has also been prohibited by the police order which goes into effect at midnight on Saturday and will last for the duration of the parliamentary session.

The ban, which is to be enforced by tightened security, comes amid plans on Sunday for a sit down protest outside parliament by an anti-fundamentalist group, the Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators (CABC).

The group, which is dedicated to tracking down alleged war- criminals of Bangladesh's war for independence in 1971, and is backed by the opposition, said it would go ahead with the sit-down demonstration despite the ban.

Committee members are calling for the trial of fundamentalist Jamaat-e Eslami party chief Golam Azam for alleged crimes committed during the war with Pakistan. It was not clear if CABC supporters would attempt to break through police cordons and barricades.

The parliamentary session, during which the national budget for fiscal 1993-94 will be presented by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, is expected to drag on for some time.

This will be the ninth session of the 330-seat parliament elected after the country's first free polls in 1991 brought the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to power.

Anti-Fundamentalist Rally Held; 10 Injured

BK0905153093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1507 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Dhaka, May 9 (AFP)—Ten people received minor injuries in firecracker blasts during an anti Moslem fundamentalism protest rally here Sunday as Bangladesh parliament opened its new session nearby.

The rally, by an estimated 5,000 activists from the opposition- backed Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators (CABC) of Bangladesh's 1971 independence war, was largely peaceful until the crackers exploded causing brief panic and a police baton charge, witnesses and police said.

Police cordoned off a nearby multi-storied building from where the crackers were believed to have been lobbed.

CABC conveno.s and police traded charges over who had disrupted the rally, which was earlier thwarted from marching on parliament in the nearby Sher-e-Banglanagar district by hundreds of riot police backed by the paramilitary Bangladesh rifles.

The CABC wanted to press home demands that Golam Azam, chief of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e Eslami party, be tried for war crimes he allegedly committed during the war against Pakistan.

"It will be a peaceful programme to draw the attention of the parliamentarians about our demands", Imam said earlier.

CABC, formed last year after Azam was elected to head the Jamaat- e Eslami despite a decade-old controversy over his cancelled citizenship in 1973, was backed by the major opposition Awami League.

Shortly after parliament went into session with speaker Razzak Ali in the chair, MP's from the Awami League and allied opposition groups staged a walk over the rally dispersal, parliament officials said.

Azam, 71, fled to Pakistan during the war and returned seven years later and reclaimed his citizenship. But successive governments avoided decision on the issue, until his election to a party post sparked protests forcing the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to arrest and and detain him as a foreigner.

The high court last month ordered the government to restore his citizenship, and an appeal against the verdict was pending before the supreme court.

At a separate rally near the downtown Baitul Mukarram mosque, Jammat-e Elami leaders urged the government to honour the court verdict and release Azam, threatening to take to the streets if he was not freed.

Central Bank Sees Economic Growth Increasing

BK1005161493 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 May 93 p 1

[Text] The national economy is expected to grow at a rate of 5.1 percent in the current fiscal year—a 1.2 percent rise over last year's growth—said the Bangladesh Bank [central bank] in its annual report (1991-92) released in Dhaka on Sunday [May 2], reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

The report attributed the acceleration in growth rate to the expansion of structural adjustment programme, particularly to aggressive reforms initiated in the country's financial sector.

GDP [gross domestic product] registered a 3.9 percent growth in the last fiscal [year] (1991-92) against 3.6 percent in 1990-91.

Growth in agriculture fell to 2.4 percent in 1991-92 from 2.7 in the previous fiscal. Industry, however, registered 7.7 percent growth which was 5.9 percent in 1990-91.

Production of ready-made garments, chemicals, fertilizer, natural gas, edible oil, and newsprint went up in 1991-92, while that of steel, sugar, cigarettes, paper, cement, and cotton fabric marked a downtrend.

According to the report, increased export earning led to decline in the deficit of country's balance of trade by 242 million U.S. dollars to 1,559 million dollars in 1991-92 from 1,801 million dollars in 1990-91.

The report said Bangladesh's cumulative foreign debt on June 30, 1992 amounted to 11,636 million dollars, 48.7 percent of GDP.

The country spent 337 million dollars in 1991-92 in debt servicing, which was 17.8 percent of the export earning in the year.

The central bank report painted a stagnated scenario of the capital market in 1991-92. Dhaka Stock Exchange saw business of shares and debentures worth only Tk. [Taka] 26.11 crore, down by about 15 percent from the turnover of 1990-91.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Nonaligned Meeting

BK0805152293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka today for Indonesia to attend the Nonaligned Standing Ministerial Committee meeting on economic cooperation beginning in Bali on 10 May. Prior to his departure, the foreign minister told newsmen that the meeting will consider all economic issues with particular emphasis on revitalizing North-South dialogue, strengthening South-South cooperation, and viewing the role of the United Nations in boosting international cooperation. Mustafizur Rahman said that Bangladesh as a member of the committee will play an active and constructive role at the forthcoming conference. Bangladesh will particularly highlight the burning problems being faced by the least developed countries and will make a fresh call for complete and timely implementation of the program of action for the least developed countries for the 1990's. Mustafizur Rahman is leading a four- member delegation to the meeting.

Burma Urged To Involve UNHCR in Repatriation

BK0805155293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Bangladesh has again urged Burma to involve representatives of the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] in expediting the Rohingya refugee repatriation process. This was disclosed by the divisional commissioner of Chittagong, Umar Farooq, while briefing newsmen at the port city on his return from Burma today. He led a six-member delegation to the four-day official-level talks on Rohingya refugee repatriation between Bangladesh and Burma that ended in Rangoon on 6 May. Farooq said Bangladesh has so far handed over to Burma a list of 246,966 Rohingya refugees. Out of this, the Burmese Government had given clearances to 98,865 refugees as of 2 May.

Meanwhile, the United Nations is sending an envoy to Rangoon to try to accelerate the repatriation of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh. The envoy, Michelle Presney, is due to arrive in Burma within the next two days. He will try to persuade the Burmese Government to allow UN personnel deployed for repatriation to visit Burma and help in the safe return of refugees to their homes.

India

Four 'Top Militants' Killed, 10 Arrested

BK1105042293 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, four top militants and one security personnel and a civilian were killed during the last 24 hours. Ten other militants, including two self-styled platoon commanders were arrested in Kashmir valley. Three militants were killed in Bandipura in Baramula District and one was killed in Pulwama District. The official spokesman said eight AK-47 rifles and large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered.

Satellite 'Invasion' Spurs Broadcasting Act Review

BK1105101693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The government says that it has become necessary to review the Prasar Bharati [Indian Broadcasting Corporation] Act in view of the satellite television invasion. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, told the Rajya Sabha today that government will be holding discussions on the Act with political parties and associations before coming back to parliament on the issue. He said the discussions will be completed in six months time. In reply to a question, the minister said that the government is yet to accept the resignation of the Air Time Committee and is examining the matter.

Replying to a short notice question in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Singh Deo assured the members that the new TV channels will telecast quality program for enrichment of Indian culture, human resource development, youth affairs, and sports. He said time slots will be sold to producers for these channels. Mr. Singh Deo said that Doordarshan [Indian Television] has been increasing its revenue from advertisements despite the competition from satellite networks.

Mr. Singh Deo informed the Rajya Sabha that the interdepartmental committee on Cable TV Network has recommended the setting up of a national cable authority to coordinate all matters regarding regulation of the Cable TV. He said the committee was of the view that setting up of Cable TV Network should be permitted only after devising a regulatory mechanism.

Lok Sabha Admits Impeachment Move Against Judge

BK1005142993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha has taken up for consideration the impeachment motion against the Supreme Court judge, Mr. Justice V. Ramaswamy. It seeks to present it and address to the president for removal from office of Justice Ramaswamy for his alleged acts of misbehavior during his tenure as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court. The motion was moved by Mr. Somnath Chatterjee of CPI-M [Communist Party of India—Marxist]. He also moved another motion to consider the report of the three-judge enquiry committee which investigated the charges against the judge. Both the motions were in the name of Mr. Somnath Chatterjee and four other opposition members. Speaking on the motion, the CPI-M leader said it will be a sad day, if people lose faith in judiciary because of the conduct of any individual. He pointed out that the motion has been moved not with any vindictiveness, but, because any blemish on the part of a judge will degenerate the judiciary as a whole.

Earlier, as soon as the house assembled after the lunch break, Mr. R. Prabhu, Congress-I, raising a point of order said the motion is not valid as the notice by more than 100 members was given during the previous Lok Sabha and it cannot be kept pending. Ruling out the point of order, the Speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, said the house is entitled to go ahead with the motion as it survives under the Judges Inquiry Act as made clear by the Supreme Court. The opposition-sponsored motion has listed 11 charges against Justice Ramaswamy. The three-judge inquiry committee, in its report, said that Justice Ramaswamy's conduct and his several acts of omission and commission discloses wilful and gross misuse of office and negligence in the discharge of duties. Presenting the case on behalf of the accused, Justice Mr. Kapil Sibal said (?pro tem) speaker did not conduct preliminary inquiry into the allegations before admitting the notice for impeachment. He said the three- judge inquiry committee found no evidence for many of the allegations. Regarding buying furniture from selective dealers, the counsel said only two firms were supplying furnishings and carpets to the Punjab and Haryana High Court since its inception.

Further Reportage on Visit of Tanzanian President

Meets Sharma, Discusses Ties

BK1005101693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The Tanzanian president, Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, today called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Welcoming the visiting dignitary on his first visit to India, Dr. Sharma spoke of the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two countries. During their half an hour meeting, the president underlined the potential that exists for boosting these ties for greater economic and commercial interaction. Both the leaders stressed the need for strengthening South-South cooperation. The possibility of technical collaboration and joint ventures between the two countries in agriculture and industry also figured during the discussion.

Earlier, the Tanzanian president was given a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on his arrival this morning. Mr. Mwinyi will also call on the vice president and the prime minister during his stay.

Sharma Fetes Mwinyi

BK1105035293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has said that India and Tanzania should strive to expand and intensify cooperation for mutual benefit. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Tanzanian president, Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, in New Delhi last night, he said both the countries must accelerate their efforts to participate in the world economy. Dr. Sharma said our goal is the creation of a new world order which is just, equitable and democratic for the good of mankind. India and Tanzania can make invaluable contribution in this respect, the president added.

In his reply, the Tanzanian president, Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, expressed the hope that his visit will provide an opportunity to review strategies for increasing bilateral cooperation. He said Tanzania appreciates the important role being played by India in promoting the goals and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement.

Bangladesh Seeks Help in Railway Construction

BK1105040693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Bangladesh has sought India's help to construct a double-line railway track on the Dhaka-Chittagong section. The 132- km track will be between (Shinki Astana) and Akhaura in eastern Bangladesh. The request was conveyed by the Bangladeshi communications minister, Mr. Oli Ahmed, to the Indian minister for railways, Mr. Jaffar Sharif, during Mr. Ahmed's recent visit to India.

Chakma Refugees To Return to Bangladesh

BK1005161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The process for the return of the Chakma refugees from India to Bangladesh will begin within 30 days from today. This has been stated in a joint statement issued simultaneously in New Delhi and Dhaka today. Bangladesh has agreed to accept all genuine Bangladeshi refugees. Bangladesh has also agreed to undertake all measures to encourage the refugees, mostly Buddhists, to return to Chittagong Hill Tracts with dignity and safety. India has assured Bangladesh of full cooperation to encourage the repatriation process.

'Ambiguity' of Nuclear Issues Viewed

BK1005151393 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 30 Apr 93 p 13

[By Bhabani Sen Gupta]

[Text] The Government is understood to have set up a top-level task force with the foreign secretary, and secretaries to the ministries of defence, finance, commerce, and science and technology, chaired by the cabinet secretary, to prepare for the coming talks with the United States Government on the nuclear issue.

The talks with a representative of the Canadian Government did not apparently go very well from either's point of view. The Indian side knew that the Canadian side was less than satisfied and the Canadian side left with the impression that the Indian side was far from pleased. Before that, a small delegation from Japan, came to New Delhi to discuss the nuclear issue. But the Japanese mostly listened to what Indians had to say without saying very much on their own except making it known that Tokyo would strongly wish India to join the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] family.

The Canadian team gave an inkling of what must be now a larger pool of Western thinking: it is that India will have access to the most modern technology if it signed the NPT. When one recalls that Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany has said before leaving India that being outside the NPT might deny India access to the best technology one cannot help having a testy feeling that denial of the latest technology to those who would remain outside the NPT is being forged as a common Western strategy.

The Americans have been indulgent with India. When last year the foreign secretary went to Washington with the strategic concept of a "nuclear safe" South Asia, he found his American hosts in a listening mood. It is not such a bad idea, they told him (not exactly in these words), and we are quite interested, but you must tell us how you propose to translate your concept into reality. In other words, how do you propose to make South Asia nuclear safe?

The foreign secretary is believed to have asked for time to accomplish what undoubtedly would be a very creative job, and the Americans gave him time. In the meantime, they increased their pressure on Pakistan to make a dialogue with India possible with little or no success.

Early this year, a number of distinguished Americans who had signed a Carnegie Foundation booklet on Indo-American relations, urging the incoming Clinton administration to make India the fulcrum of its Asia policy, came to Delhi to attend a seminar with an equally distinguished group of Indians. The Carnegie team came up with a new strategic concept: nuclear restraint. It sounded sweet to Indian official ears though not to the ears of those who want India to cross the Rubicon and declare itself a nuclear power. I do not know if the "nuclear restraint" idea was discussed between Indian and U.S. officials. But it is not known that Americans were not hostile to the idea. Their position was quite simple: okay, we'll accept a South Asia bound by nuclear restraint but how does India propose to bring this about? What is the mechanism? How does India concretise the idea?

Early May, the United States will discuss the nuclear issue with three CIS republics—Ukraine, Belarus and Kazhakstan. Each has a stockpile of strategic nuclear weapons on its territory. None of the three has signed the NPT. Nor indeed have those other CIS republics who have tactical nuclear weapons in their arsenals. Ukraine have taken up the position that it will sign the NPT only if its security from a nuclear attack is guaranteed by all the five nuclear powers. Belarus may adopt a similar position. Kazakhstan, which has closer ties with Russia than perhaps any other CIS republic, may well be satisfied with a Russian security gaurantee. I had suggested in these columns some weeks before that India, Pakistan, and Israel be invited to the Washington conference. A single formula may not attract all the countries outside the NPT to sign the treaty. But a meeting in which all non-NPT countries air their views might produce several creative ideas to bring them all into the treaty.

Indians told the Canadian team that they hoped that the NPT would be modified before 1995, the final review year, that those who stayed outside because of its discriminatory nature might be willing to join it. No thinking could be more wishful, however. The CIS republics which are outside the treaty, and Israel, India and Pakistan have no appetite to join together to demand the removal of the discriminatory clauses so that they could enter the large family of 155 nations.

In fact, none of these nations that are outside the NPT is much concerned about the discriminatory clauses which have kept India out. On the other hand, many of the countries that have signed the treaty have several problems with it, including the discriminatory clauses which can be used to deny technology to the developing nations. India can mobilise these nations and demand suitable revision of the treaty only if it is a member of the NPT family. As an outsider, it won't even be heard by the 1995 review conference which, in all likelihood, will extend the treaty indefinitely.

Whether India pursues the idea of a nuclear-safe South Asia, or the concept of nuclear restraint, it has to develop a new line of nuclear diplomacy. All these years it has remained perched on the immobile superior posture of proven capability to make the bomb and a firm determination not to make it. The posture changed in the 1980s when Americans found that Pakistan was about to make the bomb. India then shifted from yogilike position and declared that it would not make the bomb unless a Pakistani bomb compelled it to make one.

The irony of the situation is that Pakistan has officially told the U.S. it did make a number of bombs. Since India's official position is that it still has not made any bomb, the

earlier assurance to the nation that it could not remain nonnuclear if Pakistan made the bomb was nothing more than a bluff. On numerous occasions, Indian official spokesman said on the floor of the Parliament and outside that the defence forces had been ordered to take "all appropriate measures" in response to the Pakistani bomb. Were all these assurances a bluff too?

India's we-do-not-have-the-bomb posture is contradicted by many of its official statements and has, therefore, lost international credibility. When a man like General K. Sundarji claims that there is an active "capability deterrent" breathing caution into the war-making minds in India and Pakistan, surely he does not mean that India has been sitting pretty with its 1974 proven capability while Pakistan went ahead to have half-a-dozen—or whatever the number—nuclear weapons that could be used in war.

The outside world, however polite it may be to India, has come to the end of its patience. India's new nuclear diplomacy can be either NPT-friendly or opposed to NPT. An NPT-friendly diplomacy may not require India to sign the treaty. But it will require India to negotiate with Pakistan and China a series of separate agreements. With Pakistan, a nuclear-safe South Asia will mean freezing both countries capabilities at the present stage, and a pledge not to use nuclear capability against one another. The freeze accord will have to be made open to external verification. It will also mean that neither country will acquire more material for making bombs and take concerted measures for disposal of nuclear waste.

With China, India will have to negotiate an agreement which will make Tibet free of nuclear weapons and nuclear waste, and incorporate the Chinese unilateral verbal declarations that China will not make a first nuclear strike against a non-nuclear country. It is doubtful, in any case, if the second declaration applies to countries that are nuclear-capable.

If India determines to stay outside NPT, it must make that finally clear to the world and face the consequences with courage and grit. It may then proceed to make its own bombs, allowing Pakistan to make its own bombs too. That also will invite considerable international sanctions but India must have the courage to face them. The present ambiguity and ambivalence have run their course. The foreign secretary must not be compelled to face the Americans this month with the same basket of ambiguity that he has been trying to sell to various non-customers.

Exploitation of Third World Countries Discussed

BK1005123993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 May 93

[Commentary by Journalist Brahma Dutt]

[Text] The recent radical changes in the international environment, especially after cold war between superpowers have increased the chances of economic exploitation of the Third World. If there is no constructive cooperation between the developed and developing countries in meeting economic and social needs of the humanity at large, the developing countries would face economic exploitation of the worst kind. We will once again see the colossal disparity and exploitative relationship that prevailed at the turn of the century between European and non-European world today called North-South divide.

A close look at the contemporary international scenario, if studied in a historical perspective, would prove the point. Even today, as in the past, the major powers in the world politics are USA, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and Russia. It is these countries who have a theater-managed trade and commerce, war, and peace in all parts the globe. Rest of the world does not count whether these countries are in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Let us look at the wars. Europeans fought among themselves the two most barbaric and destructive wars in history. The rest of the world was forcibly drawn into these wars. Even today, USA, Britain, and other European countries are putting pressure that no one from the Third World acquires technology to develop mass destruction weapons. When it suited to Europe, they spend huge amount in developing weapons that could destroy the entire globe by 20 to 30 times. Even today, these weapons can destroy the world six times. The environment was exploited to the worst by these industrialized seven countries to their advantage and today these are talking in terms of saving the earth, controlling world's forest wealth under one threat or the other.

The post-world war period saw two important developments—emergence of more than 100 nations out of the ruins of old colonial empires ruled by major European powers and secondly, and still more important, is the unleashing of bitter hostility among newly freed countries which have been (?termed as) cold war between east and west of Europe. It was the European powers who have been cultivating crimes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The European powers unleashed subversion, internal conflicts, and proxy wars in various parts of the world to score advantage over the other by avoiding direct confrontation between themselves. They followed competitive strategy to dominate the Third World for their economic exploitation. These European powers generated wealth by industrialization and started supplying surplus capital to the Third World leading to debt traps and balance of payment problems. They manufactured war machinery and sold it to the developing world at a very high cost and to test its capability on the grounds of the poor developing strife-torn Third World.

These Western powers, who are talking of peace and recession in a too louder a voice, are, in fact, responsible in creating turmoil conditions. Even today, the so-called G-7, the group of seven economically developed countries, are controlling the global economy and are pressurizing the developing countries to open up their markets in the name of global economy, while, themselves, they are jointly forming trading blocks with rules imposed on others in utter

disregard to the vital interests of the Third World. The three major trading blocks are controlled by the leading powers of North America, European Community, and East Asia Pacific. The rest of the world is being forced to fall behind in the process of development and the gap between the have's and have not's is getting further widened. This is threatening the very existence of multilateral trading system for which the negotiations had started in 1986.

The developing countries, unless have their own trading blocks, will not be able to face the (?drug) dominated economies. The group of 77 will break sooner than expected. Africa may go with Europe, Southeast Asia with Asia pacific block largely dominated by Japan, Brazil and the bulk of the Latin American countries like Mexico would go by North America. Africa has been allowed comparatively liberal access to European Community market for its mineral wealth which European industry needs. There is also no threat from African industry to European Community countries.

It is high time developing countries must ensure development of relationship with European powers based on mutual dependency and gains. It should not allow exploitative relationship in which the trading block would capture the Third World market and also limit its development to the trajectory imposed by the most developed nations of the block. Till now, there are no indications that major industrial powers would allow the developing countries into a partnership with them for mutual benefit. In fact, countries like USA is mounting pressure to further its economic strength by threat and conditions imposed under one pretext or other such as Trade Related Investment Measures, which is TRIM's, Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, TRIP's, and under the guise of environmental protection.

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Marine Sciences Cadets

LD0805125993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, arrived in Nowshahr [port on the Caspian sea] this morning, to attend the eighth graduation ceremonies for cadets from Marine Sciences University and awarding them their epaulettes, as well as meeting the people of Nowshahr township. He was welcomed in Nowshahr Airport by high-ranking commanders of the Army and security forces, clergy men, administrative officials, and a group of the revolutionary people of that town. After inspecting exemplary units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Army stationed at the airport, the eminent leader set off for the campus at the university of marine sciences in Nowshahr. [passage omitted]

The commander-in-chief attended the morning parade stand at the university, and inspected exemplary units of IRGC and the army stationed there. [passage omitted on details of ceremony, which included reciting the national anthem by the cadets, who then received their epaulettes from Khamene'i]

Then the great leader and commander-in-chief of the armed forces made some remarks in which he stressed the need for preparedness of the armed forces in fields of science, operations, equipment, and logistics. He considered the matter of organization, training and paying attention to spiritual matters by the personnel of the armed forces as essential. The commander-in-chief pointed to the malicious and biased propaganda waged by the enemies against the Islamic revolution, and said: Contrary to such propaganda, which in the first place is being waged by the Zionists and then by their international supporter, the world-devourer America, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not intent on militarism or bringing about insecurity in the region, and it supports the consolidation of peace in the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, and the other parts of the world.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i condemned the intervention of foreigners in the sensitive region of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, and said: This region has been made, and is being made, insecure by those who for years had been backed by America and its allies. Furthermore, by their intervention, America and the powers allied to it, have caused insecurity and instability in the region. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized the importance of the need to maintain the moral and defensive abilities of the various strata of Iran's Muslim people. He added: A living nation must be able to defend its legitimate interests at any moment. In this connection, military science centers, which combine science and discipline, are dutybound to serve as a shining example in all aspects. At the end of his remarks, the commander-in-chief regarded Mazandaran Province as a struggler-producing province, with selfless and honest people. Addressing the personnel present at the morning parade field at Nowshahr's Marine Sciences University, he said: You must fully develop yourselves in spiritual and scientific matters, and serve as an example of piety and virtue for the people. [passage omitted]

Council Begins Assessing Presidential Candidates

LD0805112793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Today the Guardian Council officially began the work of assessing the qualifications of the candidates for the sixth round of presidential elections. The Interior Ministry had submitted the registration file of 128 presidential candidates to the Guardian Council last Wednesday [5 May], the end of the legal time limit for registration. After the assessment of the candidates' file by the Guardian Council, the names of those candidates whose qualification has been endorsed will be published by the Interior Ministry, after

which the presidential campaign will officially start. The sixth round of presidential elections will take place on 21 Khordad [11 June] this year.

Officials' Responsibility to People Viewed

NC0705150893 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 14 Apr 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Article 90"]

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i] met the members of the Majles committee for Article 90 [to investigate the people's complaints against officials] and stressed their important responsibility. He advised the members of this committee to attend to the complaints of the people on the administrative apparatus in a serious, sympathetic, cordial, decisive, and firm manner.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution's remarks were rather reassuring regarding the intensification of the committee's activities, and the people will also be confident that their complaints about these departments will not go unanswered and will results will be achieved.

The point that is generally seen as the reason for the complaints not yielding results is the sensitivity about divulging names.

Addressing the members of the committee, the leader of the Revolution said: The Islamic Revolution of Iran is a revolution against the incorrect cultures prevailing in the international systems of the world. Therefore, all employees of our system should work with Islamic motivation and with compassionate feeling about the obligation placed on their shoulders by the Islamic system of Iran. They should always strive with all their might to serve the people and make a serious effort to eliminate their problems, and they should be careful that there is no laxity or carelessness in this regard.

In view of this, there can be no doubt that violators and those who—despite an acceptance of responsibility—do not make an effort to serve the people should be named publicly. This would also highlight and bring into the public eye those who are acting against the interests of the people and government.

Another thing the people expect is that they should be informed of the reason for appointments and dismissals. If an official has been removed, it is the people's right to know the reason and to know of his aberration.

Contrary to some people's opinion, the need to inform the people of the reason for a dismissal will generate a sense of confidence in society, and the employees of the Islamic system will also serve the people with enthusiasm.

Economic 'Instability' Due to Local Factors

NC0805114693 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 20 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Economic Weaknesses and Macro- Politics"]

[Text] Inflation, high prices, and market instability are among the weak points of our system that have been affecting society for the past few years. Despite reports by experts and the figures that are published by the Central Bank and officials, inflation is rising. Some of the major reasons for the increase in prices are attributed to global inflation, the economic siege, steps to reform the economy, problems stemming from the war, and so on. But it should be noted that the major reason for this situation stems from domestic elements and is linked to our actions, planning, and management, and that elements such as global inflation and economic reforms and so forth rank second in line.

The following probably are the main reasons for the rise in prices:

1. Unbalanced economic growth and declining production in some sectors;

2. The extraordinary increase in cash flow and government expenditures;

3. The absence of a system to monitor imports and a correct system to monitor production and domestic distribution;

4. Weak management;

5. The absence of conformity between our actual needs and economic investments.

These issues have had significant social and economic repercussions, the most important of which has been the unbalanced distribution of income. Many officials refer to the average income in Iran. But playing with such figures is misleading. The per capita income rate cannot paint a correct picture of the people's purchasing power and living conditions. In our country the difference between the highest and lowest incomes is so great that ratios upset realities. A clear example of this can be seen in the problem of housing. Our officials have repeatedly published figures claiming that 86 percent of our population owns houses and that only 16 percent faces a housing problem. This is playing with figures, because a large percentage of these figures include rural houses as well. When 45 percent of our rural and tribal population is included in this figure, then the total number of home owners naturally will be high. But are the houses in the villages acceptable? If we deduct these houses from the total percentage, then we will see that more than 45 percent of the Iranian people in small and large cities do not have houses in the true sense. It is then that we can realize the social and economic significance of the issue.

The imbalance between rural and urban incomes—in large versus small cities, and even in north Tehran versus south Tehran and between the various strata—is growing, and this indicates our economy is unhealthy. Meanwhile, the imbalance between rural and urban families' expenses, as well as between the expenses in Tehran and in other cities, is great. The differences in income in the various parts of the country are so great that an expert opinion or figures are not necessary to paint the true picture. Under these conditions, we should not ignore these weaknesses in the policy of macroeconomics. The basis of our strategy now is to continue along the path that will only help to increase these weaknesses.

Nurbakhsh Addresses Privatization Conference

LD0805135893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] To regulate the country's economic structure, a conference on privatization began today in Tehran with the aim of assessing the latest developments and experiences in the field of privatization in Iran, as well as creating suitable conditions for better use of the country's resources. A group of economists, university lecturers, experts in economic matters, and some managers in the private sector are participating in this conference. Mr Nurbakhsh, minister for economy and finance, announced in this conference that economic regulation must enter a new phase, so that with a an extensive momentum it can attain a brighter horizon. He stressed that the government is ready to offer this opportunity to the private sector. He made clear that the aim of the debate on economic regulation is to adopt a suitable procedure and framework for utilizing the country's resources with greater efficiency. Privatization, in its full sense, must be considered as a type of complementary activity aimed at economic regulation. Therefore, by offering new ideas, those involved in the private sector must cooperate with the government policy on elimination of the quota system.

Swiss National Released on Bail

LD1005163093 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Hans Bohler, a Swiss national who has been sentenced to three years in jail, had been released on bail before his trial, a judiciary official announced here Monday.

He said Bohler's solicitor attended the court on his behalf, and that according to the bail Bohler should return to Iran to serve his prison term.

Bohler was arrested here in March 1992 on charges of illegal links with some military personnel and disclosing classified information.

Libyan Official Urges United Front Against U.S.

LD1005182793 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri in a meeting with the Libyan foreign minister, 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir here today proposed that the international inter-parliament union convene the soonest in a bid to address themselves to the plight of oppressed Muslims of the world. He also appreciated Libyan cooperation with Iran during the eight years of the Iraqi aggression.

Al-Muntasir said the arrogant world antagonizes both Iran and Libya because of the principled position of the two countries with respect to the current world issues. He said the harmony on the international scene between the two countries would benefit both Tehran and Tripoli. He called for the creation of a united popular front by both Iran and Libya against the United States. The visiting Libyan minister also extended an invitation to the Majles speaker to visit Tripoli which the latter accepted promising to make the trip at a mutually convenient future occasion.

Afghan Envoy, Velayati Meet, Discuss Developments

LD0705174493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's special envoy handed Foreign Minister Velayati a written message addressed to our country's president. During the meeting, the Afghan prime minister's special envoy explained the latest political developments since the signing of the Islamabad peace accord and expressed hope that the current talks in Jalalabad will result in the leaders of various groups reaching agreement on setting up the government and the establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

During the meeting Mr. Velayati said: The only way to solve the political problems of Afghanistan is through negotiations between the leaders of the jihadi groups aimed at achieving an all-embracing agreement. Mr. Velayati said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always shared and sympathized with the Muslim nation of Afghanistan's hardship and problems, and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its efforts toward achieving an all-embracing peace, as it actively participated in the Islamabad negotiations.

Also, Iran hopes that all resources and capabilities will be used to reconstruct and develop Afghanistan as soon as possible.

Ukraine Parliament Speaker Arrives on Visit

LD1005145193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Heading a delegation the Ukrainian parliament speaker, Mr. Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch, arrived in Iran

today at the invitation of Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri. In a news conference, shortly after his arrival, the Ukrainian speaker underlined Iran's role in creating regional stability and peace and called for the further expansion of relations between Iran and Ukraine. During his four-day visit Mr. Plyushch will meet with senior Iranian officials.

Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri also said that Ukraine enjoys a unique position among the Central Asian countries, and hoped that the Ukrainian official's visit would accelerate bilateral economic trends.

Plyushch Seeks To Promote Relations

LD1005165293 Tehran IRNA in English 1331 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Visiting Ukrainian Parliament speaker Ivan S. Plyushch today hoped for expansion of relations between Tehran and Kiev particularly in parliamentary affairs.

Talking to reporters upon arrival here on a four day visit, Plyushch said the young government of Ukraine has managed to solve many of its political problems since gaining independence 1-1/2 years ago but it has yet to overcome economic issues.

He proposed that the Islamic Republic and the Republic of Ukraine cooperate in various fields including supply of oil and energy.

The first direct contact between Tehran and Kiev dates back to last year when Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk paid an official visit to Tehran, the Ukrainian speaker said.

Iran's Majles speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who greeted his Ukrainian counterpart, said Ukraine enjoys an outstanding position among the Central Asian countries in terms of industry and agriculture, a fact that the Islamic Republic has noticed since the very beginning of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Nateq-Nuri termed Iran-Ukraine relations as "good" and said Plyushch's visit to Tehran was aimed at promoting mutual ties.

Ukraine is one of the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union which declared independence in 1991. It has a population of 51 million and its area is 603,000 square kms.

Ukraine borders Poland and Belarus to the north, Russia to the east and southeast, Moldova and Romania to the west and the Black Sea to the south.

Majles Speaker Outlines Iran's Africa Policy

LD0905131593 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq- Nuri here Sunday outlined Iran's policy in Africa and stressed that revitalization of Islam in the continent should be among the prime objectives of the Islamic republic's foreign policy.

Nateq-Nuri made the remark in his inauguration speech which opened a two-day seminar on development and cooperation in Africa.

He said Iran is determined to support African Muslims and to this end it has disregarded many economic interests as well as relations with the South African regime.

Pointing to the present status of Islam in Africa and the fact that 55 percent of the continent's population are Muslim, the speaker noted that the strong potential for Islamic tendencies in Africa has made the arrogant powers sensitive towards the continent.

Nateq-Nuri stated that during the past decades the West has had a covetous eye on Africa because of continent's rich natural resources and abundant raw materials, adding that the West owed part of its economic progress to resources in Africa.

He also referred to the growing Islamic tendencies in Africa and said that rulers in certain African countries who could not stand the upsurge accuse Iran of interfering in their internal affairs.

The speaker also recommended both the public and private sectors to increase their economic presence in the continent in light of the potentials in Africa.

Deputy Foreign Minister on International Issues

NC0805191993 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 May 93 pp 1, 2, 12

[Interview with 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran by unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ABRAR] What effects will recent developments in Pakistan have on its neighboring countries and on the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]?

[Besharati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Pakistan is among those countries with which we have relations and where the will of the people prevails. Pakistan is an independent country in which democracy has the last word. The recent developments in Pakistan that you see are a legal internal matter. This is not a new phenomenon in Pakistan and will not affect its relations with its neighbors or the ECO.

[ABRAR] Some analysts believe that with the death of [Turkish President Turgut] Ozal—who was a balancing influence on Turkey's foreign policy about the Islamic Republic of Iran—Ankara's foreign policy on Iran will undergo a change. What is your opinion?

[Besharati] Ozal was a sincere, affectionate and strong personality in his capacity as prime minister as well as president, but after the last elections his power had been

reduced—he did not have much influence on Turkey's political structure. He had more of a personal rapport with our officials that did not have any effect on the political directions of the Turkish Government. [passage omitted]

The loss of Ozal, who had more of a personal relation with us, will have no special effect on relations between our two countries.

[ABRAR] Recently Shaykh Hamdan bin-Zayid al-Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], who was in Karachi, called for talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. How do you assess this latest UAE position?

[Besharati] We are among those few countries of the world who do not have territorial claims against our neighbors. This is extraordinary in modern diplomacy of the end of the twentieth century. Naturally by the same token, we will not permit other countries to make similar claims against our territorial integrity. Regarding the issues propounded by the UAE, we believe, and they also concur, that these should be discussed during talks.

During the talks held in Abu Dhabi last year we presented our views and now we expect them to give us their answer in Tehran, so that any misunderstandings that exist can be resolved.

In any case, during [Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar] Velayati's meeting with Shaykh Hamdan in Karachi, it was decided that talks should continue.

[ABRAR] How do you assess the U.S. and European positions individually on Iran? How independent is Europe from the United States in its positions?

[Besharati] [passage omitted on situation during Cold War years] The fact is that despite their mutual differences, they have a common stance on Iran. This is not a generalization. However, we can divide Europe into three sectors: the north, the center, and the south. Each of these is different from the other. For example the positions of Germany and Britain are completely different from those of Spain and Italy on any particular issue. [passage omitted]

In any case, contrary to common belief, Europe should not be considered a unified conglomerate that acts on the same principles. Therefore, some European countries have a very independent stand on Iran and others have a very conservative one. We will also act toward them on the basis of our national will and interests and on the independence of opinion that prevails in each European country.

[ABRAR] Recently it was stated that the G-7 countries had met in Bonn and had discussed intensifying commercial restrictions against Iran. What is your opinion, and what will be the Iran's approach against such actions? [Besharati] First of all, we do not accept their reasons for intensifying the restrictions against Iran. An embargo is a double- edged sword which threatens our interests as well as theirs, especially in view of the unprecedented stagnation of the sixties and seventies. It therefore appears unlikely that they will threaten their own interests by imposing sanctions on us. [passage omitted citing Khomeyni]

[ABRAR] Recently, Iran's cooperation with the PRC and Russia has expanded. How do you view the prospects for such cooperation?

[Besharati] We have had traditional ties with the PRC since the beginning of the revolution. Due to the poised and correct position of the PRC government officials which they based on their correct appraisal of the Islamic Revolution, the relations between the two countries have expanded. We have a constant exchange of high-level delegations and with each visit, relations move a step further in the broadening of the political and economic relations between the two countries. Even now, relations are forging ahead at a correct and swift pace.

About Russia, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of that hardline stance it appears the current Russian officials have a better and more realistic comprehension of the Iran. We will continue to expand our relations with Russia on this basis.

[ABRAR] How are the relations between the Iran and Central Asia?

[Besharati] Following their independence from the former Soviet Union, the Central Asian countries forged ahead on an independent path and have thrown off their restrictions and fetters. This resulted in their officially establishing relations with other countries. Relations with Iran is important for these countries for three reasons:

First, relations with our country are durable, traditional, and historical, and have always been very strong. Second, these countries converse in the Persian language even now, and are familiar with the Islamic culture (such as Tajikistan and parts of Uzbekistan such as Samarkand, Bokhara, and Khojand.) Therefore, our relations with these countries have historical roots. Third, these countries are grappling with economic problems and the Iran can be their best economic partner that has no intentions of ever dominating them. Iran respects their internal affairs. Finally, the best relations in political culture are relations with neighbors.

[ABRAR] What is your opinion on Iran's relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan?

[Besharati] About Azerbaijan, we should say we enjoy good relations with that country. We have condemned Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and we want to resolve this crisis by amicable means. In any case, if there are any problems in that Republic we attribute them to the youth of the country's politicians.

[ABRAR] You said that the Central Asian countries are very eager to expand economic relations with Iran. There is an international principle [that relations are] based on economic ability. For example, the volume of Turkey's assistance, which is backed by the West, is far greater

than that of Iran. Naturally, they will tilt toward countries that will invest more. In view of the problems that Iran has itself, how can we be successful in succeeding in this economic rivalry?

[Besharati] This principle is correct in that whoever invests more is ahead of the competition. We cooperate with the Central Asian countries to the extent of our ability, for the progress of the region. We hope that these countries will be able to succeed in their objectives.

[ABRAR] In light of the negative Western propaganda about Iran, it appears that Western countries have resorted to maneuvering against us at the international human rights' conference in Vienna. This usually takes place when Western efforts are behind them, so that by strengthening the role of the United Nations, the principle of territorial integrity can be ignored or considered worthless. How do you appraise this subject in light of the West's pressure on Iran on the issue of civic rights?

[Besharati] Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the United States propounded the concept of the new world order. This implies guiding the foreign policy of countries in one direction that is in the interests of the greater powers.

In order to achieve this, the greater powers require a series of instruments one of which is the ploy of "terrorism" which is used for bringing those countries to their knees that endanger the interests of the greater powers. In its efforts to contain the Islamic Revolution, the Western world levels accusations such as nuclear weapons production, the stockpiling of nonconventional weapons, expansionism, and the murder of Salman Rushdie [as published].

In my opinion, the level of freedom accorded to the people in Iran is not given to people anywhere in the world. You witnessed how the Davidian sect members in America were burned alive, and no voices were raised in protest. If however, some drug smugglers are executed in Iran these countries say that human rights are not being upheld. Every year a number of referendums are held in our country. On 11 February the people enthusiastically give a vote of confidence to the government. You can never witness such a spectacle in other countries.

[ABRAR] We have witnessed the conflict between the Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina for quite some time. To what extent has Iran tried to use its influence on Zagreb for terminating the war between the two groups?

[Besharati] An independent Europe does not want a country in its heartland that has a culture, ideology and ways which are different from it. For this purpose, immediately upon the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina, opposition arose and Europeans instigated the Serbs to attack the Muslims. The United States overtly declared that it had no interests in the Balkans. This is the height of the despicability of the powers in that they see thousands of innocent human beings being massacred but say that they does not have any interests there. When we execute some drug smugglers in Iran they raise an outcry and claim that human rights are being violated in Iran. We have made great efforts so that the Bosnian Muslims and Croats can resolve their differences through negotiation. To some extent these efforts were following their course but some powerful countries, some of which have the power of veto in the Security Council, support the Serbs and do not permit an ultimate solution to terminate the atrocities of the Serbs.

[ABRAR] Is there a crusade with all its distinctive characteristics, going on in the Balkans?

[Besharati] We cannot state that those who are fighting the Muslims are all Christians. In many countries, Christians are living amicably with Muslims. Therefore, we cannot generalize that the current war in the Balkans is a crusade. This war is a war between a brutal and blood shedding minority and a majority wanting independence. Some powers are backing the brutal faction.

[ABRAR] According to present assessments, the West is seeking to incite Iraq against Iran. What is your opinion on this?

[Besharati] Many regional politicians believed that the only alternative [preceding word in English] that can contain Iranian Islamism is Iraq and the person of Saddam Husayn himself. Fortunately, this idea has lost ground in the aftermath of the Gulf war, and has proved the fallacy of the West's calculations regarding Saddam's power. It does not appear possible that the Westerners would make the same mistake over again.

At the end of the twentieth century, the powerful countries are not seeking to create flashpoints in the world and they attain their objectives by means of propaganda. As a result, Westerners are neither strengthening Saddam but neither will they topple him. This is because if Saddam remains in power, the smaller countries in the Persian Gulf will remain in a state of perpetual fear of Baghdad, and in this way, the Westerners will be able to sell billions of dollars worth of their useless weapons to these countries. Saddam also has territorial claims against all his neighbors and if one day he gains strength, he will repeat the same actions that he committed when he attacked Iran and Kuwait.

[ABRAR] During his visit to Tehran, the acting endowments minister of Iraq to Tehran stated that he was carrying a special message by Saddam Husayn for Iranian officials. Was there any truth in the message? How do you view relations between Tehran and Baghdad?

[Besharati] The Iraqis have repeatedly expressed their willingness for negotiations with Tehran. Recently as well, they asked us to permit the flight of their airplanes carrying Iraqi pilgrims to Mecca over Iran. We are still considering their request.

Regarding relations between the two countries, we should state that our relations with Iraq are within the

framework of the principles stipulated by the United Nations, as the Security Council has imposed sanctions on Iraq. In any case, we are talking about Iraq, not Saddam Husayn, We do not intend to add to the problems of Iraq.

Reyshari Departs, Discusses Hajj

LD1005155993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpts] Mr. Mohammadi-Reyshahri, representative of the the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult—Khamene'i] and the head of Iranian pilgrims to the House of God, left for [Saudi] Arabia this morning at the head of a delegation to pay a pilgrimage to the House of God and to direct the affairs of the hajj of Abraham in the year 1372. [passage omitted]

Mr. Reyshahri said in an interview before leaving Tehran:

[Begin Reyshahri recording] In the past two years, Blessed and Exalted God has granted us success in holding the hajj with precisely the aims set by the imam of the ummah [Khomeyni]—may he be admitted to paradise—and stressed by the eminent leader [Khamene'i]. I hope that, God willing, this year, too, we will be able to implement God's wishes and to carry out the same programs as in previous years. At any rate, I am hopeful that, God willing, the pilgrims to the House of God will be able to take part en masse in the splendid ceremony of the disavowal of infidels to demonstrate their steadfastness in the path of the imam, their loyalty to the leadership, and their position as representatives of the resistant Iranian nation. God willing, they will all return from this politico-religious trip with great enlightenment, spirituality, and purity. [end recording]

[Announcer] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri added: So far, 35,000 Iranian pilgrims to the House of God have been blessed with arrival in noble Medina, and the remaining pilgrims will join them in the next two weeks. He said: According to reports, Iranian pilgrims have not encountered any special problems thus far and the attitude of the Saudi Arabian authorities has been relatively good. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent in [Saudi] Arabia sent us a report a few minutes ago about the arrival of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri in noble Medina. Let me draw your attention to it.

[Correspondent] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi- Reyshari, representative of the the vali-ye faqih and the head of Iranian pilgrims arrived in noble Medina this morning. [passage omitted]

Addressing the Iranian pilgrims to the House of God, Hojjat ol- Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri said: This is the land of revelation, the land of the prophet and the imams, and the land of all of Islamic history. You must show gratitude for your presence here and the opportunity you have been given, because the messenger of God is watching our actions. I, therefore, advise you not to do anything that might offend the blessed spirit of the messenger of God and God's imams. You must bear in mind that our behavior and our actions in this land of revelation ranks among the highest prayers. He added: It would be the greatest sin if the dignity of Iranian pilgrims were to be cast into disrepute. We must, therefore, all take the greatest care to be a source of honor for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri called on the pilgrims to take part in the congregational prayers of their Sunni brothers.

Mubarak Call to Egyptian 'Islamists' Questioned

NC0705131793 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 May 93 p 16

[Political commentary: "Who Should Repent?"]

[Text] Yesterday Mubarak called on Egypt's Islamists to repent and to come to their senses because no mercy will be shown toward those against whom force will be used. In a speech in Cairo, Mubarak said that he wants all those who were misled in their thoughts to repent and to come to their senses so that Egypt can avoid a major tragedy!

These remarks were uttered at a time when the Mubarak regime has not spared any acts of violence against the Islamists in Egypt and at a time when executions and tortures have become an everyday occurrence.

Mubarak continues to think in vain that the unrest and crisis in his country is limited only to a small group. He has no other alternative but to attribute the actions by the Egyptian Islamists to a foreign country and to use this as a pretext to crush them—the same method that has been used throughout history by despotic sultans and monarchs against their people.

In assessing Mubarak's recent remarks and his call on the Egyptian Islamists to repent, the following points should be noted:

1. Is it the Islamists—who want to establish rule on the basis of Islamic teachings—who should repent and voice support for Israel, or those who are executing and torturing the Egyptian Islamists?

2. Mubarak's regime attaches more importance to the security of Israel than to that of its own people. Through concentrated diplomatic efforts in meeting U.S., Israeli, Syrian, and Palestinian officials, he finally brought the Arabs into a new round of comprising talks with Israel. This comes when the Palestinians have not regained any of their rights, when the deportees have not been repatriated, and when the West's mass media is speaking about the many concessions granted by Israel to the Arab countries!

But it is the Arab countries that have lost their territories to Israel and have been granting political concessions for years.

3. The policy of threats is being implemented both by Israel against the Arabs and by Mubarak against the Egyptian Islamists. But such policies have lost their effectiveness. Even though in the past the Arabs were known to be fearful people, nevertheless today alert and brave nations such as the Egyptian and Palestinian nations have, by pursuing Islam and by understanding its lofty meanings, linked valor with martyrdom. Therefore, the era of the policy of threats and of intimidating the Arabs has ended.

Commentary Assesses Mubarak's Gulf Visit

LD1005205593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, currently on an eight- day official visit to the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council—PGCC—arrived in Oman yesterday.

On his two-day trip to Muscat, Mubarak is accompanied by the Egyptian foreign minister, the propaganda minister, the political adviser, and some other key officials. Earlier, the Egytian foreign minister, Amr Musa, had stated that this visit would initially be in connection with the situation in the Persian Gulf and the Arab world, and also Egypt's ties with those states.

Meanwhile, regional sources say that the so-called Middle East peace talks process and the ways of removing the obstacles existing on the way of attainment of peace and stability in the region are among the subjects to be discussed by Mubarak in the course of his meetings with the heads of the states located south of the Persian Gulf region.

It must be pointed out that since the inception of the talks between the Zionist regime and the Arabs, the Egyptian regime has made fervent efforts to draw the Arabs toward a compromise. These efforts, which are directed at attaining the objectives of America and the Zionist regime, have met with the tough opposition of Egyptian Muslims; and basically, one of the main reasons for recent unrest in Egypt lies in the increasing closeness of Mubarak with Tel Aviv and Washington, and also the drive for encouraging other Arab countries to adopt the same strategy.

The internal crisis in Egypt and the escalation of the Islamists' activities have not only overshadowed the domestic issues of the country, but have also had many impacts in its foreign policy in a manner that Oman's foreign minister, Yusif bin Alawi, has said that the talks between Hosni Mubarak and Sultan Qabus of Oman held yesterday were focused on the issue of Islamic fundamentalism.

Meanwhile, many analysts believe that apart from political issues, numerous economic constraints of Egypt have been instrumental in increasing public discontent. For this very reason the analysts believe that economic ties of the countries located south of the Persian Gulf region with Egypt, and the pledges of financial aid to Cairo in particular, are among the major subjects to be discussed by the Egyptian team in the course of these visits to these countries.

Even though the PGCC members during the Kuwaiti crisis lent abundant economic aid to the Cairo regime for its political and military support in liberating Kuwait, its economic constraints were rooted too deep to be resolved with the help of those aids. Therefore, in order to offer greater facilities to Egypt, as well as to Syria, and also to forge political and military cooperation between these two countries and the PGCC states, a declaration was signed in Damascus in March 1991. According to this declaration, a $10 billion fund for aiding Egypt and Syria was required to be set up by the PGCC members by now. However, these states, due to various reasons, including the high cost of reconstruction, arms purchases, and adverse economic situation, specially due to the non- specification of the enforcement of the entire declaration, had not taken any concrete steps toward paying this financial aid.

It must be noted that the enforcement of the political and security aspects of Damascus Declaration mostly goes back to the developments and conditions prevalent in the wake of the Persian Gulf war. While Egypt is seeking, in pursuit of its political and economic objectives, to have its presence in the Persian Gulf waters, and to depict itself as a gendarme and the defender of the countries located south of the Persian Gulf region, these states are preferring to come under the protective umbrella of the western governments. In the same connection, some of them have so far concluded military agreements with America, France and Britain, and are even trying to sign similar contracts with Russia.

Perhaps repeated postponements of the session of the foreign ministers of the countries which signed the Damascus Declaration, too, have taken place on this account. Last time, the session was postponed to 12 June.

At any rate, political observers believe that Mubarak will not have easy going talks ahead, both in the case of reaching agreement on receiving economic aids, and also on genuine participation in the regions's security agreements.

Mubarak Criticized for Talks on Gulf Security

NC1105105493 Paris AFP in English 1035 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 11 (AFP)—The semi-official TEHRAN TIMES newspaper on Tuesday blasted Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for trying to revive a security pact with the Gulf Arab states.

Mubarak is touring the Gulf monarchies to garner support for a unified bloc against Iran, which he says is a threat to the region.

Egypt and Syria signed a security agreement with the Gulf Arabs—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman,

Qatar and the United Arab Emirate—following the Gulf War in 1991. The agreement however has never been implemented.

"The two countries (Egypt and Syria) are far too removed from any direct interest in the security of the region," the English-language daily said in an editorial.

"One suspects that they are only after the petrodollars... if they conclude a security pact with them."

"To achieve success in his (Mubarak's) foreign policies, he has to create an unfavorable diplomatic atmosphere around Iran," the editorial said.

"The only realistic and practical security system for the Persian Gulf region would be one in which all of the countries in the region had active roles," the daily added, apparently referring to Iran and Iraq.

Egypt Blamed for Deteriorating Ties With Sudan

NC1105084093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 11 May 93

[Unattributed commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] The incidents between Egypt and Sudan show that relations between these two countries are deteriorating even further. Yesterday the Sudanese Government summoned the Egyptian ambassador and condemned Cairo's hostile acts against the current Sudanese Government. Also, the Sudanese interior minister described Cairo's recent attempt to dispatch arms and financial assistance to rebels in southern Sudan as a step toward upsetting the current peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria between representatives of the Sudanese Government and of the rebels.

Even before this, the deterioration of relations between Egypt and Sudan over the Hala'ib border area had reached a dangerous level. Last week Egypt warned Sudan to stop sending its civil servants to this area. In response, Sudanese President 'Umar al- Bashir stated that his country will not give up one inch of Sudanese territory in the Hala'ib region and that the Sudanese Army is ready to confront any type of military aggression.

Political observers believe that the escalating conflict and mutual accusations between the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments are engineered more in Cairo rather than in Khartoum. The current Egyptian Government is facing pressure from two directions. On the one hand, the activities of the Islamists inside Egypt have weakened Mubarak's regime, while on the other, the success scored by Sudan's Islamic system in solving its cultural and economic problems and in ending the war in southern Sudan can—from the Egyptian statesmen's point of view—threaten the Cairo regime's security.

The Egyptian statesmen believe that any type of political success in Sudan will strengthen the Islamic movement inside Egypt and that for this reason, Cairo should prevent any peaceful solution of the conflicts between the Sudanese Government and its opponents and externalize Egypt's domestic conflicts by fomenting artificial border conflicts and political problems.

UAE Should Pay Compensation for Gulf Islands

NC0705150793 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Apr 93 p 12

[Hasan Fathi political commentary: "The United Arab Emirates Should Pay Compensation"]

[Text] Even though the flames of war have died down in the Persian Gulf, tranquility has not yet been fully restored in this region. Border disputes and claims have exacerbated the situation in the Persian Gulf and paved the way for interference by others. These claims, which stem from instigations by some countries, could trigger new conflicts.

Among the cases still pending is that of the imposed war, because the articles of UN Security Council Resolution 598 concerning the payment of compensation have not yet been implemented and continue to be disregarded.

The issue of compensation is among the topics that should not be discussed within political frameworks, but dealt with in a comprehensive manner. There may be some who think that propounding this issue under the current circumstances—when Tehran-Baghdad relations are improving—is not to our benefit. But it also is not advisable to ignore this issue.

Throughout the imposed war Iraq enjoyed the political, economic, military, and even personnel support of various countries, and namely of some neighboring countries. These countries should be considered as the Iraqi regime's accomplices and the UN Security Council decisions on Baghdad should also apply to them. In other words, they should be considered as partners in crime on the basis of international principles, and if Iraq must pay compensation to Iran, then these countries also should pay compensation according to the harm they have done.

Among the countries that supported Iraq and helped to fulfill Baghdad's objectives in protracting the war, we can refer to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. During the imposed war, the UAE shaykhs, as members of the [Gulf] Cooperation Council, showed that "Arabism" was more important to them than justice and right. Thus, they moved in the direction that Saddam Husayn wanted.

The UAE shaykhs' overt and covert support for Iraq throughout the eight years of sacred defense was revealed by these same shaykhs when Kuwait was occupied by the Iraqi forces and when the Persian Gulf war began. These confessions have been recorded in archives.

Within the context of international law, the fact that the UAE shaykhs participated in the imposed war makes

them liable, and if specific sanctions are envisaged for the payment of war compensations to Iran which—on the basis of the report by the former UN secretary general—was the one attacked, then these sanctions also will apply to the UAE. Thus, the UAE, which is now resorting to the subservient and dependent mass media to create a commotion about the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, is legally guilty and will have to pay compensation to Iran.

If Iran, as a country that was attacked, has not made any demands so far, it has been due to goodwill and its wish to bolster its friendly relations. But it reserves the right to vindicate its rights if and when necessary.

UN Policies Said Creating 'Genocide' in Bosnia

NC0805124493 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Security Council Cannot Be Tolerated"]

[Text] The developments of the past year in the Balkans have shown that in the world today the United Nations is incapable of carrying out its duties.

From the very outset of the genocide and the savage aggression by the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, it was obvious that the permanent members of the Security Council had neither the political determination nor the wish to prevent the genocide.

Now the United Nations has started disarming the defenders of Srebrenica! This may be their most serious step so far. In short, they have taken the arms from the besieged Muslims and ensured that the Serbs will continue to be armed. This is the United Nations' most tragic step in Bosnia so far. In other words, instead of confronting the aggressors, they have cooperated with them and given then a free hand in achieving their objectives!

When the Bosnian Government lost all hope in the United Nations and the West, it started to make concessions. Even though the plan by the U.S. and British representatives was oppressive, the Muslims accepted it. This was a painful decision for the Bosnian leaders. But none of the U.S. and Western promises were kept, and today Bosnia is nothing but scorched earth. The question the world public now asks is: Who are the Serbs? Why are the United Nations and the Security Council avoiding taking serious and practical measures against these savages? Why did the United States and the West use every possible pressure lever to make the Muslims accept the so- called peace plan but appear helpless in preventing the Serbs' savagery?

The Security Council has even deprived the Muslims of their legitimate right to "defend themselves" and has imposed an arms embargo on Bosnia. Each time the Serbs have intensified their attacks and taken further steps toward genocide, the United States and the West have only issued empty threats—the last time being the opposition by the United States to the proposal to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia because of the Russian referendum!

The U.S. justification for influencing the Security Council to oppose any serious resolution against the Serbs is that it would help Yeltsin confront the Russian nationalists in the 25 April referendum!

During the past year it has been clearly proven that the sanctions against the Serbs have not been effective, and it has been seen how the Governments of Russia, Greece, and Bulgaria and even some Western governments have violated these sanctions.

Claiming that if the Bosnian arms embargo is lifted more blood will be shed and that this decision would enrage Russia only manifests irresponsibility and unconditional support for the aggressor.

Bosnia's Muslims are now victims of the Security Council's policy of double-standards. With the fall of Srebrenica the UN Security Council has attempted to issue several resolutions in a bid to show that it has done something. But none of these resolutions has been effective, and confident of UN and Western support, the Serbs have impudently rejected all decisions.

The Security Council's stance on the Bosnian Muslims during the past year is a scourge that will never be removed from the United Nations. The Security Council permanent members are directly responsible for the current situation and have thus completely ruined the Council's legitimacy.

Islamic countries and countries opposing the Serbian aggression should put forth a new plan in order to end the injustice that rules the world order, because the existing situation cannot be tolerated by any country that calls for "national security."

Pakistan

Further Reportage on Sharif Assembly Stand, Suit Willing To Accept Court's Verdict

BK0805142993 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Islamabad, May 8 (AFP)—Deposed Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed confidence in the impartiality of Pakistan's judiciary as the Supreme Court Saturday resumed hearing a petition against his dismissal by the President.

In a packed court room 11 of the country's top judges started hearing Sharif's constitutional petition challenging President Ishaq Khan's April 18 order dismissing Sharif's government and dissolving the National Assembly.

Security was tight around the court and entry restricted through special passes.

Riot police guarded the nearby parliament building as Sharif has asked the court to restore the lower house.

Chief justice Nasim Hassan Shah has promised to try to reach a decision in a week.

Before leaving for Islamabad to attend the proceedings Sharif told reporters in Lahore that he would fight an "individual's decision" to dissolve the assembly in the court whose "credibility is beyond any doubt."

"I have full confidence in the impartiality and independence of the judiciary," the 43-year old industrialist turned politician said.

Asked what he would do if the court's decision went against him, he replied "I will accept the court's verdict wholeheartedly and prepare for the general elections."

Ishaq Khan promised elections for July 14 after firing the prime minister after a bitter three month tussle during which Sharif had attempted to clip the presidency's sweeping powers.

There was speculation that if the Supreme Court declared Ishaq Khan's action illegal and restored the assembly, the president would engineer a vote of no confidence against Sharif.

Such a move, Sharif observed, would constitute "another conspiracy" against the nation.

He said the dissmissal of his government had not only "tarnished" the country's image abroad but also impeded national development.

Holding the president responsible for political turmoil and the deteriorating economy, Sharif called it the nation's "hard luck" that foreign investors had started winding up businesses following the ouster of his reformist government.

Through his reforms, he said Pakistan was being turned into an "Asian tiger" adding that the president's action had pushed the country's development back five years.

The caretaker government of Balkh Sher Mazari Friday unveiled the first case of "corruption" against Sharif, accusing the deposed premier of manipulating a reduction in import duty on scrap material for the benefit of his family's steel industry.

Labour Minister Zahid Sarfraz heads a three member ministerial committee set up by Mazari to investigate alleged misdeeds of the previous government.

Sarfraz at a news conference Friday said Sharif obtained a two- thirds reduction in the duty on import of scrap material resulting in about 40 million dollars loss to the national exchequer.

Denying the allegations, Sharif said the electronic media under government control was being used to malign the opposition. A press conference by Sarfraz was broadcast by the state-run television.

Sharif Says Public Supports Stand

BK0905044893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said the stand taken by him on the dismissal of his government and the dissolution of the National Assembly has been supported by the people all over the country. Addressing members of his faction of the Pakistan Muslim League and the allied parties in Islamabad yesterday, he said he will fight his case in the Supreme Court and the people's court.

National Awami Party leader Ajmal Khan Khattak, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i- Pakistan's Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, Ahle Hadith Party's Maulana Moinuddin Latvi, and Senator Mohammad Ali Hoti also spoke on the occasion.

Excessive TV Coverage to Detractors

BK0905122993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Opening Salvo"]

[Text] Federal Labour Minister Zahid Sarfraz has delivered what seems to be the first of his promised litany of charges against the deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The allegations he has detailed in his press conference on the scrap metal import duty and other taxes issue, are specific and pointed and he claims to have documentary proof of the same. Whether, however, this constitutes what Mr. Sarfraz called an "open and shut case" is something that remains to be seen. Particularly since Nawaz Sharif, his brother Shahbaz, and the then Finance Minister, Sartaj Aziz, have all come out with refutations of Mr. Sarfraz' allegations. The healthy part in all this bitter exchange is that whereas Zahid Sarfraz has revealed that he will now hand over whatever information he has gathered to the Law Ministry for them to file a case against the former Prime Minister, both Nawaz and Shahbaz have expressed their willingness, nay anxiety, that the issue should be taken up in the courts. Since both parties seem willing to have the case decided in a judicial forum, there seems little percentage in dilating, at this stage, on the truth or otherwise of what appears to be a somewhat complicated and technical matter.

However, what is troubling about the way the issue has been brought to public notice is the use of the electronic media in an extended "overkill," providing extraordinary time and coverage to Zahid Sarfraz' entire press conference. In the absence of the accused, such a use of the powerful medium of TV amounts to a virtual "trial by media." It also contradicts the declared policy of the caretaker government and its Information Minister, Maulana Kausar Niazi, to turn over a naw leaf and permit fair and balanced coverage of news and events by the government-controlled media. In all fairness, Nawaz Sharif and company should have been given equal time on TV to answer the charges against them.

Zahid Sarfraz took advantage of his uninterrupted (since those who could have or might have wanted to interject were just not present) diatribe to claim that his case was being put to the people's court and it was ultimately their verdict which mattered. While this may be true in a political sense, especially given the scheduled elections on July 14, it in no way negates the rights of the accused to a hearing. And what if the accused are acquitted of wrongdoing by a court of law? Which verdict would "matter ultimately" then? Some sympathy must also be reserved for Mr. A.G.N. Kazi who, being a public servant, is unable to refute publicly, in the manner the other alleged accused have, the charges placed at his door. That is why, apart from a judgement of the merits of the case itself, the proper recourse is to let the courts decide the issue and in the process allow all parties to state their position and, where possible, clear their names. One inescapable conclusion, though, was suggested by Zahid Sarfraz himself when he claimed during his press conference that "this is the opening scene of the first episode of the first act of the drama." Zahid Sarfraz may inadvertently have thereby let the cat out of the bag.

Arguments Begin Court Suit

BK1005100193 Karachi DAWN in English 10 May 93 pp 1, 14

[Text] Islamabad, May 9—The counsel for sacked prime minister Nawaz Sharif said on Sunday that the order of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to dissolve the National Assembly was malafide as he had overstepped his constitutional powers by ordering the dismissal of the prime minister and his cabinet.

Arguing before a Full Bench of the Supreme Court, Mr. Khalid Anwar said that the President was only empowered to dissolve the assembly but was not competent to dismiss the Prime Minister or the Cabinet as mentioned in the dissolution order.

In his dissolution order the President had said: "Now therefore, I, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by Clause (2) of Article 58 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and all other powers enabling me, hereby dissolve the National Assembly with immediate effect; and dismiss the Prime Minister and the Cabinet who shall cease to hold office forthwith."

Khalid Anwar said even General Ziaul Haq had not directly dismissed the Prime Minister or the Cabinet when he had dissolved the assemblies in 1985 as the dissolution order issued by him clearly stated that the Prime Minister and the Cabinet were being dismissed in consequence of the dissolution of the National Assembly.

"It seems an army general had more understanding of the constitutional structure than a seasoned bureaucrat who has seen many governments come and go," Mr. Khalid said.

He said Article 58 of the Constitution confers upon the President the power to dissolve the assembly. "The question arises whether the power was exercised in a manner sanctified by the constitution," he asked.

Chief Justice Nasim Hasan Shah agreed that something had been said in the dissolution order which need not have been said but observed that the effect was the same as the government ceases to hold office after the dissolution of the assembly.

Mr. Khalid Anwar, however, was of the view that this sentence was added deliberately and with some specific purpose. "It's a reflection of his hindsight," he added.

Justice Shafiur Rehman said there had to be some order asking the government to leave office. "Dismissal is a common word. Everybody understands this word in this country although there is a stigma attached to this word."

Justice Shafiur Rehman at one stage said that the counsel had presented his case "with great clarity."

Mr. Khalid Anwar will continue his arguments on Monday till tea break after which Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar, senior counsel for Nawaz Sharif would make his submission.

The Chief Justice told the Attorney General that he should prepare for submitting arguments on Tuesday.

Today's proceedings were also attended by Mr. Nawaz Sharif who stayed in the court room till tea break. During the interval he talked with former PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader Yahya Bakhtiar who has been engaged by the deposed prime minister as his senior counsel. A large number of former ministers and MNAs [Members of National Assembly] besides Senators were present in the court room today. Prominent among them were ANP [Awami National Party] leader Ajmal Khattak, Begum Nasim Wali Khan, Mr. Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, Speaker Gauhar Ayub, former Deputy Speaker Nawaz Khokhar, Mr. Fakhr Imam, Mr. Ejazul Haq, Mr. Abul Sattar Lalika, Raja Zafarul Haq, and Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad.

As soon as the court resumed hearing today, Mr. S.M. Zafar, counsel for the caretaker prime minister, Balkh Sher Mazari, made a short submission to explain his point of view. Referring to various judgments of the Supreme Court he said the dissolution did not place any bar on the functioning of the political parties.

Mr. Khalid Anwar, continuing his arguments, dealt with Article 58 of the Constitution which empowers the President to dissolve the assemblies. He said that there were two salient features of Clause I of the Article empowering the Prime Minister to advise the President to dissolve the assembly. Firstly, he said, the power to advise the President to dissolve the assembly was with the Prime Minister, which meant he had a free hand to do so. Secondly, he said, no circumstances were prescribed in the clause to limit the prime minister's power. "This means that if the leader of the House wants to go back to the people he is free to do so." He said another concept which flowed from this clause was that the President had no authority to stop the prime minister

from dissolving the assembly as it was binding on the President to act on the advice of the prime minister, otherwise the assembly would stand automatically dissolved after 48 hours.

Counsel said what was most important in Article 58 was not what had been included in it "but what is excluded". Elaborating, he said, the President had no power to control the prime minister in any manner. He said there was a malice in the dissolution order as the President was not empowered to dismiss the prime minister or the cabinet as they automatically ceased to exist in consequence of the dissolution of the assembly. "The constitution ceased to exist in consequence of the dissolution of the assembly [quote marks as published]. "The constitution has not conferred on him (President) the power to dismiss the government because the President is himself an indirectly elected person." He said the main question was whether the president exercised his power in a manner sanctified by the constitution or not.

Limits of power: Mr. Khalid Anwar strongly objected to the last para of the dissolution order in which, according to him, the President had overstepped his constitutional power by ordering the dismissal of the prime minister and the cabinet. "I assume the President of Pakistan was assisted in writing the dissolution order by able counsel. It is a reflection of his insight also," he maintained.

(The counsel used some harsh words against the President which were expunged from the proceedings on the request of Attorney General Asis A. Munshi)

He said the late General Ziaul Haq had a deeper understanding of the constitutional structure than President Ghulam Ishaq Khan because his dissolution order was in accordance with the constitutional requirement.

He said Clause 2(a) of Article 58, empowering the President to dissolve the assembly if a vote of no-confidence was passed against a sitting prime minister and no other member of the assembly was likely to command the majority, was also very spacific. Even in case of no-confidence, the President had to ascertain honestly that no other person could get the majority, before dissolving the assembly.

"The law makers must have considered that mere no-confidence cannot justify the dissolution, that is why they included the sentence that the President should ascertain that no other person enjoys the confidence before disolving the assembly," he added.

When a member of the full court asked the petitioner's counsel about the position of resignations reported to have been sent to the President by the members of the National Assembly, he said that under the constitution, the members were required to submit their resignations to the Speaker.

Continuing his arguments on Article 58, he said the scope of Clause 2B, which empowers the President to dissolve the assembly if a situation has arisen where the government of the federation can not be run in accordance with the constitution, was also very restricted. While exercising his powers under this sub-clause, the President had to apply his mind and see whether such a situation had arisen or not.

He said internal fighting in political parties or other such issues could be made a basis for exercising authority under this clause. "There is a difference between a flu patient and a cancer patient," he said, and the patient suffering from flu could not be administered drugs prescribed for a cancer patient.

"This clause can only be applied if the body of politics is suffering from cancer," he added.

Counsel said the clause could not be applied on "temporary ailment", Secondly, it could be applied only in such cases where the appeal to the electorate had become necessary. "It cannot be applied for political expediency or for granting advantage to the opposition," he maintained.

Mr. Khalid Anwar said it would always be expedient to hold elections but that was no answer, as "party disputes are outside the ambit of the provisions of Article 58".

The presidential order was unlawful and unconstitutional, he said, and "the action reeks of party politics".

He recalled that during his address before the joint sitting of the parliament, the President had not only criticised the opposition but also given a clean bill of health to the government by endorsing its policies. "Something transpires to him between 21st of December 1992 and April 18, 1993", after which he made up his mind to dismiss the assembly.

The Chief Justice asked whether the speech was not framed by the government, as was the practice in all democratic countries. The petitioner's counsel said to the best of his knowledge, the speech normally went to the government "but in this case the President has given his own assessment of the government plans and approved them".

Sharif's broadcast: Mr. Anwar also took exception to the President's remarks against the former Prime Minister's last speech in which he had accused Mr. Sharif of diverting people's attention from the real issue and levelling false accusations against him (the President).

He said the President termed the Prime Minister's speech "subversion of the constitution". Subversion of the constitution, he noted, was covered under Article 6 of the Constitution relating to high treason. "Criticism on Ghulam Ishaq Khan has been equated as high treason", he remarked.

A judge asked whether the prime minister could criticise the President, to which the petitioner's counsel replied that he would argue this point later.

He said the President also accused Mr. Nawaz Sharif of levelling baseless allegations against him (Ishaq) instead

of rectifying the problems which were pinpointed by the President in their meeting. The President and the Prime Minister had a meeting after which the President had issued a Press release, urging the prime minister to undertake certain measures to improve the situation. The prime minister had assured the President, counsel said, to undertake certain measures to the satisfaction of the public representatives and the people but he was prevented from doing so as the assembly was not allowed to meet to consider those measures. "Is it not a malafide exercise of power?" he said.

Mr. Khalid Anwar said the assembly was requisitioned by the members for April 18 and it was duly announced on radio and television on April 17 that the assembly would meet on April 18. He said the President's perception was that a resolution to impeach him from his office would be tabled in the assembly, therefore he forestalled the action by dismissing the assembly.

He also disagreed with the contention of the President that he was unaware that the assembly had been requisitioned. "It's totally unbelievable that the President says he was unaware of the fact which was known to every citizen. Rather he was perhaps the only man in Islamabad who was unaware that the assembly had been summoned," he said.

The assembly was summoned in accordance with the rules of business of the National Assembly, he added.

An honourable judge asked the petitioner's counsel as to what was the procedure for impeaching the President and whether the procedure could be completed in one day. Mr. Khalid Anwar said the impeachment resolution could be moved in any House of the parliament provided 50 percent of the members of that House had a signed the impeachment notice. He said the impeachment could be held in a joint sitting of the two Houses and the President would be given an opportunity to defend himself before voting.

The petitioner's counsel said there was seemingly a "theory at such conscious level on which the President was operating". The theory, he said, probably was that he was a supreme person who could direct the prime minister and ask him to come up with solutions.

"The President or the Prime Minister are not supreme. Only the Constitution is supreme. Both have distinct powers and operate in their own spheres," he said.

He said the constitution did not contemplate who was superior or supreme. "If any one is superior it is the National Assembly as both the President and the prime minister are answerable to the House," he said.

A judge enquired whether it was not necessary for the President and the prime minister to go hand in hand. Before Mr. Khalid Anwar could reply the Chief Justice remarked: "That is an ideal situation. The question is if they don't go hand in hand then what happens?"

The Counsel said under Article 91 of the constitution the cabinet's job was to aid and advise the President "but the President considered it was vice versa".

Referring to the charge levelled by the President that certain ministers were not taken into confidence in decision-making, the petitioner's counsel said it was no ground for the dissolution. Similarly, he said the President's charge that a large number of people had resigned and the prime minister had lost majority in the House was also not a plausible argument to dismiss the assembly. If so was the case, he said, the President could have asked the prime minister to seek a fresh vote of confidence.

"In essence the President neither hires nor fires the prime minister", he maintained. He said the President was also empowered to direct the cabinet to reconsider a decision if in his opinion a bad decision was ever taken by the cabinet but he never exercised his right which meant that he was happy over the working of the cabinet.

Similarly, he said, the President was also empowered to refer any Bill back to the parliament if in his opinion there was some flaw in the Bill or it was not in the public interest. Even this power, he recalled, was never exercised by the President.

"If the President was unhappy with the privatisation policy of Sharif government, he could have sent back the Bills which were passed by the parliament for that purpose."

"If the President gets bored with the Prime Minister can he do anything?" asked the Chief Justice, and the court room burst into laughter.

The petitioner's counsel said any constitutional power enjoyed by the President, which could have reflected on the working of the prime minister or the cabinet, was never exercised by him "which leads to the conclusion that the President had no grievance."

Face-Saving Reasons: He said all the reasons given to justify the dissolution was nothing else but a face saving and "the people know these were not the reasons."

He said even the shifting of the Supreme Court building from Rawalpindi to Islamabad was mentioned as one of the reason for dismissal.

"Hope we are not disqualified from hearing the petition," Chief-Justice Nasim Hasan Shah remarked smilingly.

Mr. Khalid Anwar also disputed the claim that corruption could be a valid reason for dissolving the assembly. "Suppose there is corruption in the judiciary and hence the President decides to dissolve the lagislature, will it be a constitutional exercise" he asked.

He maintained that even if there was a corruption, elections were no answer. "Elections sometime add to the problem," he said, pointing out that it was one party which was ruling the centre and the provinces but election could now bring a different party at the centre thus increasing the chances of centre-province tussle.

He said even if a government had lost popularity, it would be no valid reason to dissolve the assembly or dismiss the government. "Sometimes unpopular decisions are taken by the government which are not liked by the people although they are in the national interests. Does that mean the government should be changed? Unpopularity is no ground for dissolution", he said.

There were several other alternatives available to the president, counsel went on, instead of dissolving the assembly but he did not exercise any one of them.

"You can add that in such a situation the people's opinion could be ascertained through a referendum and dissolution is not the answer," the Chief Justice remarked.

Mr. Khalid Anwar said he was not sure that the holding of election would solve the problem.

Mr. Justice Shafiur Rehman noted that an appeal to the electorate had been suggested in Article 58 only in case where the government had lost the confidence of the people. "It's not a question of popularity or, unpopularity," the judge observed.

The judge also lauded the petitioner's counsels for explaining with great clarify that the powers of the President were specific and there were other alternatives available. "The power he (the President) exercised has constitutional parameters", he said.

Mr. Khalid Anwar, maintainisng that elections were not the answer to the priblem, said the tussle was between the President and the prime minister but the voter would not be in a position to express his will against the President because he was indirectly elected. "The choice in election will not be between Sharif and Ghulam Ishaq Khan," he said, adding, "So what's the use of these elections?"

The Chief Justice immediately asked the Attorney General to note this point. "Note this very carefully. This is an aspect which was not dealt by us in our earlier judgments," he said.

Mr. Khalid Anwar said the power under Article 58 was an executive power exercised by the President "The question is: how can an executive power destroy the legislature?" he asked.

He said unless this article was struck down, "we can only say it is an executive power seeking to destroy the legislature, therefore, it should be given the narrowest conceivable interpretation."

He said in previous dissolution orders, one of the charges had been the indulgence of the ruling party in horse trading "but this time this term was not even mentioned because he (the President) is the biggest hourse trader himself."

He told the court how the Punjab Assembly, where the ruling party had 90 per cent support, was toppled in two or three days after the dissolution of the National Assembly. "Similarly PPP is the biggest representative of rural population in Sindh, while MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] represents urban population. But the government of Sindh neither represents the MQM nor the PPP. Whom does it represent?"

"This time he (President) has forgotten the word hourse trading but remembers everything else," he remarked.

He also disputed the Prosident's charge that CCI [Council of Common Interests] and NFC [National Finance Commission] were not allowed to function freely. "It's a matter of how one perceives the whole scene," he remarked and asked: "Was the constitutional machinery allowed to function (by the president)?"

At one stage the Chief Justice asked the patitioner's counsel whather he agreed with Justice Salam's opinion that the power of the President to dissolve the assembly had become extinct with the demise of its author, to which Mr. Khalid Anwar said: "My mind says no, but my heart says yes."

He was still on his legs when the court rose to meet again on Monday.

Mazari To Seek Army Help in Elections

BK1005161993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has said the topmost priority of his government is to hold free and fair elections on the 14th of July irrespective of summer. He was talking to editors of newspapers and magazines from all over the country in Islamabad this evening. He said he has insisted the chief election commissioner to start the election process immediately.

He has also written a letter to the chief of Army Staff as to how the Army can help the government in holding free and peaceful election.

Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said he would welcome criticism from the press but this should be healthy and constructive as the newspapers are the eyes and ears of the people. He, however, appealed for discouraging sensationalism in the press. He said his doors were always open to the media people and he would welcome their suggestions and guidance.

Answering a question, the prime minister said he had made it very clear that as far as privatization and its principles were concerned, his government was all for them, but they would like that there was more transparency.

Prime Minister Denies Differences With Provinces

BK0905031493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 may 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari has said that the entire country is being run in a very democratic way and with utmost smoothness. He was talking to Punjab Governor Chaudhary Mohammad Altaf Hussain and Chief Minister Mian Manzoor Ahmad

Wattoo in Lahore yesterday. He said that the federal government and the provincial governments are functioning in complete harmony and noted that there is no truth in speculation that there are differences between the Federal Government and the provincial governments on administrative or political matters. The prime minister said the fact is that there exists exemplary harmony between the caretaker Federal Government and the provincial governments.

Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has since returned to Islamabad.

Sindh Officials Acquitted in Attack on MQM Camp

BK1005161093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Syed Qaim Ali Shah, the leader of the opposition in the Sindh Assembly; former Sindh minister Manzoor Hussain Wassan; and Munawwar Suharwardi, Benazir Bhutto's security officer, have been acquitted in a case in which they were accused of being involved in the shootings at the Muhajir Qaumi Movement camps on 22 August 1990. The verdict was given by Qazi Mohammad Asghar, the special antiterrorist court judge, in Karachi today.

Bhutto Links Resumption of U.S. Aid to Free Elections

BK1005150793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Karachi, May 10 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Monday linked resumption of U.S. aid to Pakistan to the holding of free elections in the country scheduled for July 14.

It is a vital "first step needed to break the growing isolation and for resumption of assistance affected by American perceptions on the nuclear issue, (and) terrorism, to which now the missile issue has been added," Bhutto told a news conference here Monday.

Bhutto returned here Sunday after a week-long visit to the United States.

Washington suspended more than half a million dollars in aid in October of 1990 on suspicion that Pakistan's nuclear programme was weapon oriented.

Islamabad's relations with the United States deteriorated further when Washington implicated it in terrorism after the World Trade Center blast in New York and questioned its reported purchase of Chinese M-11 missiles.

The U.S. considers the reported missile deal, denied by China, as a violation of 1987 Missile Technology Control Regime.

At the press conference Bhutto stressed that: "If Pakistan-U.S. relations have to improve these issues should be defered until elections."

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan set July 14 for elections after he dismissed former Premier Nawaz Sharif's government and the National Assembly on April 18.

"It would be impossible to roll back," Bhutto said of the polls, cautioning that "if Pakistan is declared a terrorist state it would affect our exports and all foreign bank accounts would be seized, besides other setbacks."

Declaring that "we are non-proliferationist" as far the nuclear issue is concerned, Bhutto warned that "if elections were rigged to keep (her) Pakistan People's Party (PPP) out of government" the crisis will deepen.

U.S. 'Obstinacy' on Ties Bewildering

BK0705105993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Snakes and Ladders Would Make More Sense Than This"]

[Text] Pakistan's relations with the United States are now in a phase which defies definition. Is it hide-and-seek? Love-hate? Shadow boxing? Bitter-sweet? Trial-error-trial...? To be or not to be? The nearest we can get to define is to say that the United States is just not ready to come to terms with the post-Cold War world. As a matter of fact—a fact the political philosophers in the West are unready to accept—the culture of the West will have to undergo a fundamental transformation to be in consonance with a world without war and weapons, without confrontations, without an enemy to outclass as a power, that is, military power. The peculiar psychosis of the West renders it unable to trust and respect others. To be at loggerheads witha country like Pakistan, which has served the United States at the expense of its own sovereign interests is a marvel of cupidity in international relations. And to cap it all, to call Pakistan all manner of uncivil names is something which the people of this country just fail to understand. Till yesterday Pakistan was the most allied of US allies. Overnight, Pakistan is the target of incessant threats of the most dire nature, barely short of open war. Call it whatever you will, this is not consistent with sane and civil behaviour. If the big-power ethics is that it is not bound to be ethical in its relationship with less powerful nations and that friendship is a one-way street, then of course it is an entirely different matter. And there is nothing one can do about this obstinacy in moral error.

The reason why we have reverted to Pakistan-US relations is that with the US threat to declare Pakistan a rogue and outlaw nation still hanging over this country's head, the United States Navy is having joint exercises with the Pakistan Navy in the Arabian Sea [words indistinct] with a country which is stil on Washington's "watch list," "hit list," and goodness alone knows what other observation and investigation just doesn't make sense. How can you play naval games with a nation you keep abusing and threatening all the time? No doubt the same question can quite properly be addressed to our own government. But with lesser justification because we are not calling US any names, nor

accusing it even for the injustice and affront heaped upon us by the power-drunk superpower.

The joint Pak-US naval exercise looks something more serious than a mere joke. The US naval component participating in the exercise ironically includes a nuclear submarine. What irony! Pakistan must abandon its nuclear research and development, even for peaceful purposes. That's one side of the picture. But Pakistan must be part of a naval show in which the main showpiece is nuclear-powered and equipped with weapons of mass destruction. If this [words indistinct], what is it pray?

Caretaker Government Warned on Nuclear Compromise

BK1005111393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Caretakers be warned—no compromise on nuclear issue"]

[Text] Of late stories have been appearing in the national Press on the intention of the caretakers to reduce our nuclear programme; also the present visit of Benazir to Washington is being regarded as a part of the plan to capitulate to US pressure in this regard.

The former Prime Minister's camp has made public statements pointing to the US role in the sacking of a democratically elected government. If we look at the patterns in American foreign policy, we find that both after and before the cold war it has tried to destabilise any government which promoted its own vital national interest in preference to US global aims. the difference is that in the past all popular and nationalist regimes were branded as communists, whether they deserved that tag or not, while today they are labelled as terrorists. The US wants weak and unstable governments which can be easily manipulated. The government of Nawaz Sharif had a massive majority in the elected parliament, and since it owed its existence to the will of the people, it had to be sensitive to the grass-roots sentiments on nuclear issue. It stressed in no uncertain terms that we are a sovereign nation and our programme will not be rolled back due to the threats and blackmail of any foreign power.

Of course no government in Pakistan can openly sign away its nuclear options and survive for more than twenty-four hours, but there is a real danger that the present government may enter into a secret pact with Washington overlords and barter away our sovereignty for a fistful of silver. This is no idle conjecture as several facts points to this direction. It is an unpopular, unelected and a weak government, which cannot go to masses for support in its bid to defy the might of US and its allies. It is no secret that a sizable section of the Establishment is most anxious to sign the dotted line on the behest of Washington. This section sees the erosion of its privileges with the stoppage of foreign aid. In fact their power and wealth owes a lot to overseas financial assistance. The surrender has not been effected simply because of the fear of popular backlash.

One reasons why Benazir and her party have been inducted into the government is that the ruling clique hopes that the street power of the People's Party can be counted on to remain neutral as the deed of surrender is solemnised. In addition to that, they had counted on Benazir's popularity with Washington, and have assumed that she can broker a deal between Washington and Islamabad. These are the broad outlines of the caretakers' gems plan, but the power- hungry and purblind rulers of Pakistan are blithely unaware of the fact that their countrymen have become more conscious, mature and wiser in the same degree as the rulers have become more myopic and stupid.

If the caretakers are genuinely committed to guard the sovereignty of the nation, what is the point of sending emissaries to Washington to explain our position. Who the hell are a bunch of Washington officials to declare us a terrorist state? Are we a dependent country, a tributary or a vassal state of the American empire? We have as much right to declare the US not only a terrorist but a state which thrives on genocide, mass destruction, and perpetual warfare. The US owes us an explanation, and not the other way round.

Official Reaffirms Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy

BK1105031893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Pakistan is committed to the use of nuclear energy purely for peaceful purposes and meeting its increasing energy needs. This was stated by Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, while addressing a seminar on nuclear technology in Karachi yesterday. He said the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant is being looked after well and international safety standards are being applied there.

Mazari Stresses Resolution of Kashmir Issue

BK0705150793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Pakistan and Sri Lanka have expressed their resolve to continue their friendly relations. This was stated by the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, while talking to newsmen at the Lahore Airport on return from Colombo after attending the last rites of Sri Lankan assassinated President Premadasa.

In response to a query about the process of accountability, the caretaker prime minister said that if anything comes to his notice, he will take action against the person concerned. He thinks that it is not possible to go into the depth of every case in three months and added that the next government can look into these cases. Earlier, on arrival, the prime minister was received at the airport by the Punjab governor, Chaudhary Mohammad Altaf Hussain, members of the Punjab assembly, and senior officials.

Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari called on the Bangladeshi prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, in

Colombo last night. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and for further promotion of bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada and Bangladeshi foreign minister Mr. Mustafizur Rahman were also present in the meeting.

The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has said that the relations between India and Pakistan can be improved only after the Kashmir issue is resolved. He was talking to PTV correspondent Sarwar Munir Rao on board the plane while flying back home. The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, left Colombo after attending the funeral ceremony of the late president.

[Begin Mazari recording] For about half an hour we were talking and I found him to be a very pleasant and nice person and we discussed other matters and we also discussed some matters about India and Pakistan. We both agreed that the ordinary men in the street in India as well as in Pakistan were interested in bringing about some sort of understanding between Pakistan and India over Kashmir because this has been a source of discontent between the two countries and it is marring our relationship with India and also hampering our development. Because if once the question of Kashmir is settled, things will improve much better. And as it is, you see, in such occasions, nobody wants to commit anything. But at least we had a very friendly talk and we agreed that something good should come out whenever the talks are held because it will help both India and Pakistan. [end recording]

The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, left Colombo after attending the funeral ceremony of late President Ranasinghe Premadasa. At the Bandaranaike Airport, he was seen off by the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Herath; acting ambassador of Pakistan to Sri Lanka; and other dignitaries.

Mazari, UN Envoy Discuss Afghan Situation

BK1005123893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The personal representative of the UN secretary general in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Mr. Sotirios Mousouris, had a meeting with the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, in Islamabad today. He briefed the prime minister on the UN humanitarian assistance program for Afghanistan. The prime minister expressed his appreciation for the valuable work done by the UN agencies in alleviating the sufferings of the Afghan people. The political situation in Afghanistan, particularly the talks among Afghan leaders at Jalalabad to break the deadlock on Cabinet formation as a follow-up to Islamabad peace accord, also came under discussion during the meeting.

Minister Discusses Ties With Indian Envoy

BK1005161693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Pakistan wishes to establish normal and tension-free relations with India on the basis of peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir problem in accordance with the UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla agreement. This was stated by Foreign Minister Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada during a meeting with Indian High Commissioner S.K. Lamba in Islamabad today. Pirzada said the two countries should generate political will for peacefully resolving all outstanding issues.

The foreign minister regretted the statements of the Indian home minister, in which the Indian minister accused Pakistan of being involved in the Bombay bomb blasts. He said according to the Indian leaders' own statements, including those of Home Minister S.B. Chavan, no proof of Pakistan's involvement in these bomb explosions has been found as a result of the investigations conducted by the Indian authorities. Pirzada reiterated that Pakistan is firmly opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He also informed the Indian high commissioner of the concern in Pakistan regarding the activities of the Indian intelligence agencies in Pakistan.

The Indian envoy conveyed a message of goodwill from the Indian prime minister [as heard] to Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada.

U.S. Ties, 'Terrorism Issue' Viewed

BK0705105593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 7 May 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Dealing With the Terrorism Issue"]

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, in the course of an interview on Cable News Network (CNN), responded to a query regarding the prospects of Pakistan being declared a terrorist state by conceding that the image Pakistan was beginning to acquire, internationally, was a matter of concern. She went on, however, to make the plea that the terrorism issue be put aside while elections are held. Explaining her position, Benazir Bhutto appeared mindful of the manner in which the issue could be exploited during the election campaign. Her apprehensions are well-founded. Already, the Jamaat-e Eslami has dubbed (?deportation) [words indistint] large number of Arabs, based in Peshawar and suspected of terrorist activities against their respective governments, as being indicative of slavery to the dictates and interests of the United States. It is only a matter of time before the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (Nawaz) and others start using the anti-American line, not least, for its considerable emotive charge.

Pakistan's relationship with the US, at various levels, has been close to the point of being unhealthy. Our role in Afghanistan is a case in point. In following an agenda set by the CIA, we lost track even of our own long-term interests. There was room, had our policymakers been wiser, to steer a less damaging course.

But this does not mean that we can afford to ignore the United States which remains a key player in global affairs. The best we can do is to ensure that accommodation is not at the cost of our core national interests. However, first this middle ground has to be clearly indentified on the basis of a

broad, non-partisan consensus. Given our present precarious position, it is absolutely vital that we work towards such a consensus. But this will become harder to achieve, if self-serving anti-Americanism becomes one of the main planks of the electoral campaign. It would also mean [words indistinct] makes raise promises about cutting th US down to size and then fail to deliver if it comes to power. The result would be a weak government, an easy prey to external interference. On the other hand, those who favor a more moderate course can be marginalised by being cast in an anti-nationalist light and end up being dependent on external support to an extent that may well compromise the national interest. Whether or not the United States accedes to Benazir Bhutto's plea that the terrorism issue he set aside for the time-being, there should certainly be an effort here to avoid exploiting those issues for political ends that can aggravate our already precarious position.

Sri Lanka

Police Identify President Premadasa's Assassin

BK0905044293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0438 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 9 (AFP)—Sri Lanka police Sunday claimed they had "positively identified" the assassin who blew up President Ranasinghe Premadasa in a kamikaze-style bombing at a May Day rally here, press reports said Sunday.

The police Crime Detective Bureau (CDB) gave the name of Premadasa's killer as Kulaweerasingham Veerakumar from the island's northern Jaffna peninsula where the dominant Tamil Tiger guerrillas are active, the report said.

Police also identified the gunman who shot dead opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali April 23 at an election meeting here as Kandiah Ragunathan, also from the Jaffna peninsula.

"They (CDB) have positively identified both assassins and they were trying to ascertain whether they belonged to any terrorist group," the state-run SUNDAY OBSERVER said.

Police have earlier claimed that the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), were the prime suspects in both murders. The Tigers have denied involvement.

Premadasa was blown to pieces as he directed a ruling party May Day procession while 23 others, including seven policemen, were also killed in the blast.

Opposition Rejects Police Findings

BK1005074293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 10 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan opposition party Monday rejected a police claim identifying the assassin of former national security minister Lalith Athulathmudali and renewed a charge that the government was responsible.

Athulathmudali's Democratic United National Front (DUNF) told reporters Monday they were not satisfied with the police investigation into the April 23 assassination and the police version of the assassin's identity.

"Three days after the brutal assassination of our leader we accused the government of his murder. We confirm and reiterate that accusation," DUNF spokesman Wickrema Weerasooriya told reporters Monday.

The police Crime Detective Bureau (CDB) identified the gunman who killed Athulathmudali at an election meeting here as Kandiah Ragunathan from the island's northern Jaffna peninsula where Tamil Tiger guerrillas are active.

Police have blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for Athulathmudali's killing and said the Tigers were also prime suspects in the May Day assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The CDB has identified Premadasa's assassin as Kulaweerasingham Veerakumar also from the Jaffna peninsula.

"They (CDB) have positively identified both assassins and they were trying to ascertain whether they belonged to any terrorist group," the state-run Sunday Observer said. The Tigers have denied involvement.

The government called in Britain's Scotland Yard to investigate the Athulathmudali murder. The Yard detectives left the island over the weekend after completing their inquiries, diplomatic sources said.

"They will make a final report to the Sri Lankan police," the source said. Scotland Yard was called in by President Premadasa days before he himself was assassinated by a suicide-bomber.

Police Seek Assassin's Associates

BK1005123693 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1111 GMT 10 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 10 (LANKAPUVATH)—CDB [Crime Detective Bureau] detectives have fanned out in Colombo and the suburbs in search of associates and other members of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] hit squad, which is believed to have been responsible for the assassinations of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and DUNF [Democratic United National Front] leader Lalith Athulathmudali.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that the suicide bomber Kulaweerasingham Weerakumar alias Babu who allegedly murdered President Premadasa when directing a UNP [United National Party] May Day procession at Armour Street junction in Colombo 13 and Kandiah

Ragunathan who allegedly shot dead Mr. Athulathmudali when he was addressing a provincial council's election rally at the Kirullapone Stadium in Colombo on April 23 were known to have a number of associates.

Premier: Premadasa Not Involved in Murder

BK1105095493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0844 GMT 11 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 11 (LANKAPUVATH)—Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe asked politicians who had accused the late President Premadasa of killing Lalith Athulathmudali why the handing over to the police of the gun used in the killing of DUNF [Democratic United National Front] leader's assassin was delayed, states Tuesday's 'ISLAND'. He posed that question not as the prime minister, but as an attorney-at-law. He was speaking at a provincial council election rally in Ja-ela on Sunday. The meeting was held to canvass support for the UNP [United National Party] candidates contesting the provincial council election from the Gampaha District. He said there had been a concerted campaign to character assassinate the late president. That gained momentum after the killing of Mr. Athulathmudali. Some politicians were spreading falsehoods to mislead the people. The late president was unfairly implicated with the killing of Mr. Athulathmudali by some opposition members. President Premadasa was proved not guilty of the rumours only after the president was killed in a bomb attack on 1st May. President Premadasa's value was realised by some people after his tragic death. Certain opposition activists had become so inhuman as to light crackers to 'celebrate' the death of a person. If any UNPer had lit crackers on the death of an opposition politician he would be sacked from the party immediately. He pointed out that a few days after the killing of Mr. Athulathmudali the opposition had called a media conference and produced an affidavit of the person who organised the Kirulapone meeting where Mr. Athulathmudali was shot dead. He asked the people whether it was right for the so-called party of intellectuals to release an affidavit to the media instead of presenting it to court, which was the proper thing to do. Large-scale violence was speculated soon after the funeral of President Premadasa. But President D.B. Wijetunge had proved his mettle by ensuring that no untoward incident would take place after the funeral. "We did not allow even a single glass to be broken", he said. Political stability was essential for economic progress and to inspire the confidence of foreign investors. The UNP had ensured a peaceful transition of power after the death of the president, Prime Minister Wickremasinghe said. He urged the people to strengthen the hands of President D.B. Wijetunge to carry on the policies of President Premadasa to give a new deal and new vision to the people by voting the UNP into power in all seven provincial councils. He said the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] did not have any alternative economic policy. The new premier arrived at the meeting amidst, unprecedented security by STF [Special Task Force] personnel. He was greeted by large crowds who shouted "jayawewa".

New President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Sworn In

BK0705130893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1214 GMT 7 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 May (LANKAPUVATH)—Mr. D.B. Wijetunge, Acting President was elected unanimously as the new president this morning. He assumed office by taking his oath before Hon. G.P.S. De Silva, chief justice at a ceremony at the presidential secretariat this afternoon.

A news release issued by the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo states Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, M.P., was sworn in as the new prime minister at the same ceremony. The following members of Parliament were also sworn in the cabinet.

1. Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, minister of industries, science and technology.

2. Mr. Wijayapala Mendis, minister of transport and highways.

3. Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, minister of justice.

4. Mr. Festus Perera, minister of public administration, provincial Councils and home affairs.

5. Mr. S. Thondaman, minister of tourism and rural industries.

6. Mr. P. Dayaratne, minister of reconstruction, rehabilitation and social welfare.

7. Mr. Joseph Micheal Perera, minister of fisheries and aquatic resouces.

8. Mr. W.J.M. Lokubandara, minister of cultural affairs and information.

9. Mr. Alick Alre, minister of ports and shipping.

10. Mr. C. Nanda Mathew, minister of youth affairs and sports.

11. Mr. A.R. Mansoor, minister of trade and commerce.

12. Mr. U.B. Wijekoon, minister of handlooms and textile industries.

13. Mrs. Renuka Herath, minister of health and women's affairs,

14. Mr. A.M.S. Adhikari, minister of posts and telecommunications.

15. Desabandu Mr. B. Sirisena Cooray, minister of housing and construction.

16. Mr. K.D.M.C. Bandara, minister of power and energy.

17. Mr. Harold Herat, minister of foreign affairs.

18. Mr. Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi, minister of food, co- operatives, and janasaviya.

19. Mr. Rupa Karunatilleke, minister of plantation industries,

20. Mr. R.M. Dharmadasa Banda, minister of agricultural development and research.

21. Mr. Gamini Athukorale, minister of lands, irrigation and development and

22. Dr. Wimal Wickramasinghe, minister of environment and policy planning.

The president has appointed Mr. Wijayapala Mendis, minister of transport and highways as the leader of the House of Parliament.

'Non-Cabinet Rank Ministers' Sworn In 8 May

BK0805122493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1106 GMT 8 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 May (LANKAPUVATH)—Fifty non-Cabinet rank ministers were sworn in Saturday afternoon before Sri Lanka's President D.B. Wijetunge at the Presidential Secretariat, Colombo.

A news release issued by the Presidential Secretariat states 22 subject specific ministers were sworn in. They are:

Mrs. Sunethra Ranasinghe	Education services
Sarathchandra Rajakaruna	Energy conservation
E.M.P. Paul Perera	Science and technology
M.L.M. Aboosally	Plantation services
W.M.H.B. Wanninayake	Minerals and mineral based industries
Indradasa Hettiarachchi	Coconut industries and diversification
Dayananda Wickremasinghe	Human resources mobilisation
Tyronne Fernando	Legal and prison reform
Harindra Corea	Telecommunications development
R.M.P.B. Kaviratne	Sociocultural integration
Mahendra Wijeratne	Livestock development and production
Senaraja Samaranayake	Export development
Mrs. Amara Piyaseeli Ratnayake	Home affairs
J.G. Wijeratne Banda	Agricultural production and marketing
John A.E. Amaratunga	Provincial councils
Asoka Wadigamangawa	Lands and land alienation
Chandra Ranatunga	Construction and building materials
Chandra Karunaratne	Up-country peasantry rehabilitation
H.M.A. Lokubanda	Mahaweli development
M.A. Abdul Majeed	Handloom industry
A.C.S. Hameed	Higher education
W.J.M. Lokubandara	Indigenous medicine

Twenty eight state ministers were also sworn in, namely:

J.A.E. Amaratunga	Foreign affairs
H.G.P. Nelson	Agricultural development
M.E.H. Maharoof	Ports and shipping
M.J.A. Cader	Health
D.R.T. Abeygunasekera	Trade and commerce
M.M.J. Cooray	Power and energy
P.S.L. Galappatthy	Fisheries and aquatic resources
Gamini Lokuge	Tourism
K.A. Kularatne	Highways
Mrs. M.S. Karunaratne	Reconstruction, rehabilitation and social welfare
L.D. Gamage	Buddha sasana [religion]
A.B.M. Imithiaz	Housing
R. Samaraweera	Food and cooperatives
D.M. Ariyadasa	Sports
P.P. Devaraj	Hindu religious affairs
A.J. Ranasinghe	Information
M.S. Sellasamy	Industries
U.L.M. Farook	Transport
S.B. Welagedara	Irrigation
Mrs. A.C. Karunaratne	Women s affairs
Mrs. R.M. Pulendran	Education
G. Tissakutti Arachchi	Parliamentary affairs
A.H.M. Azwer	Muslim religious affairs
M.D.A. Gunatilleke	Textile industries
R. Nandimiththa G. de Zoysa	Rural industrial development
H.R. Piyasiri	Labour and vocational training
Harold Herat	Finance
Dr. Wimal Wickramasingh	Policy planning and implementation

Secretaries to President, Prime Minister Reappointed

BK0805092293 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0757 GMT 8 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 May (LANKAPUVATH)—President D.B. Wijetunge, Saturday reappointed Mr. K.H.J. Wijedasa as secretary to the president.

Mr. K.M. Abeysinghe was reappointed secretary to the prime minister.

The secretaries of all ministries were also reappointed.

President: First Priority End to Ethnic Conflict

BK0905113293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunge has vowed to take action to rid the country of the atmosphere of fear which has affected all sections of the people. In an interview with the Sri Lankan newspaper correspondents, Mr. Wijetunge said that his first priority would be to find a solution to the ethnic conflict. He will make every endeavor to negotiate a peaceful solution to this problem. He said that he will make a fresh attempt to bring the leadership of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to the negotiating table. At the same time, however, the armed forces would pursue their responsibility to disarm those resorting to terrorist activity in the north and to bring that area under civil administration once again. He was confident that foreign investors would be assured of the stability in the country as normalcy returns rapidly in the coming weeks.

President on Incentives, Relief Measures

BK0905114493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunge has announced a package of incentives, concessions, and relief measures to all sectors. Government will further liberalize imports and payments and remove state's monopoly. The president noted that when imports are open to the private sector, they will cost less and the people will benefit. Tariffs and tax reforms will be continued to encourage savings and investment. President Wijetunge said that Sri Lanka's foreign reserves are the highest in recent memory. He assured foreign and local investors the government will continue to implement the liberal economic policies more vigorously. More avenues will be opened up for the private sector to contribute to the economic development of the country.

The president added that on the recommendation of the minister of justice, he has granted, as a mark of compassion, a general amnesty to prisoners. In terms of this amnesty, all convicted prisoners will be granted a special remission of four weeks. Accordingly, 500 prisoners will be released on Monday, the 10th.

President Reaffirms Liberal Economic Policies

BK1105102893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0832 GMT 11 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 11 (LANKAPUVATH)—President D.B. Wijetunge has assured foreign and local investors that Sri Lanka will continue to implement her liberal economic policies without deviation. "We will open up more avenues and grant incentives for the private sector to contribute to the economic development of our country. This was the vision of His Excellency the late Ranasinghe Premadasa. My mission is to pursue this policy with the same vigour and direction," said the president. "I have no doubt that all sections of the people will see the merits of our policy stance. I have no doubt that they will extend their fullest co-operation to achieve faster rates of growth and prosperity and achieve unity and peace in this beautiful island of ours," said the president. President Wijetunge explained these policy matters when he addressed officials outlining the future economic policies of his government. The president said he was able to provide the relief measures he announced on May 9, because of the vast strides the government had made on the economic front. The president said: "Sri Lanka has made major advances in the economic liberalisation drive in the South Asian region. Today, our currency is freely convertible for current account transactions. Our trade with other countries has grown beyond expectation and our manufacturing base has become the mainstay of the economy."

Prime Minister Addresses Nation, Stresses Unity

BK1105102093 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0841 GMT 11 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 11 (LANKAPUVATH)—The new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday delivered an address over the radio and TV in which he stressed that the country should achieve national consensus on two issues of importance. The prime minister said one was to adhere to the economic path "we have trodden over the last few years, which has encouraged investment, created employment and promoted growth with equity". The other was to strengthen "our national unity by resolving the issues which divide us". "National unity was also the vision of the late president. 2,500 years ago Gautama Buddha said that the country of the Vajjis would remain united as long as they "meet in unity, work in unity and disperse in unity". The prime minister said this teaching should "guide us in our task of consensus-building in a democracy"

Army Ties Down LTTE, Offensives Prevented

BK1005124493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1109 GMT 10 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 10 (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is being tied down by Sri Lanka's security forces and as a result [has been] unable to launch any offensive operations during the last two weeks.

A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command (JOC) told LANKAPUVATH that government troops were carrying out a number of low profile, but highly effective limited operations in the North and the East which had resulted in about fifteen terrorists being killed during this period.